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INSIDE



Running Dry

Extended unemployment benefits
for nearly 2 million Americans be-
gin to run out Wednesday.

Business... Page 14



Tough Critic

Johnny Depp's flamboyant portray-
al of Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the
Caribbean" was good enough for
an Oscar nomination, but the actor
says Disney was less than thrilled.

Life & Style...Page 21

'House majority is now the minority.' PAGE 2
Reksid still on DPL payroll. PAGE 3

Supreme Court sanctions Govendo

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court yester-
day publicly censured Superior
Court associate judge Kenneth L.
Govendo and ordered him to com-
plete an educational program on judicial eth-
ics at his own expense, for his several comments, including
the "adios muchacho" phrase he made in three different court
hearings.



Govendo

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Delayed gov't wages, again

» **6th partial payless payday since June**
» **Constitution Day on Dec. 8 likely to be an unpaid holiday**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Hundreds of government employees in
non-critical service positions will once
again have a payless payday tomorrow
as the government's cash shortage per-

sists. Most of them will not only have
another payless payday, but also a 64-
hour payroll when they receive their
checks next week.

Press secretary Angel Demapan,
when asked for comment, said non-
See **DELAYED** on **Page 4**

\$1M in annual local economic impact from every military ship



By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Military ships anchored off the Saipan
lagoon each contribute over \$1 mil-
lion to the CNMI economy annually,
including the purchase of fuel, mainte-
nance, and supply services, said Capt.
Herman T.K. Awai, commodore of the
Maritime Preposition Ship Squadron 3.

Awai was the guest speaker at yes-
See **MILITARY** on **Page 4**

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Capt. Herman T.K. Awai, commodore
of the Maritime Preposition Ship
Squadron 3—which are the preposi-
tion ships off the Saipan Lagoon—
gives an overview of the squadron's
capabilities, mission and community
relations, during yesterday's Saipan
Chamber of Commerce general mem-
bership meeting at the Saipan World
Resort in Susupe. Awai also said the
ongoing training of military personnel
aboard two of these preposition ships
on Saipan does not have anything to
do with the latest tension between
North and South Korea, or the military
buildup in the Marianas.

TO SAVE NMI PENSION SYSTEM FROM COLLAPSE

Fund eyes cuts in survivors' benefits, increase in retirement age

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

To extend the life of the Common-

wealth's pension system, the NMI Re-
tirement Fund wants to increase the re-
tirement age of members and cut in half
the benefits being received by survivors.

Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo dis-
closed during Tuesday's board of trust-
ees meeting that the Office of the Attor-
ney General is now helping the agency

draft these proposed rule changes.

In addition, Alepuyo said the Fund
also proposes levying a tax on pension

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Local

Tasi Tours holds grand opening of Coconut Beach Club



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The company that holds the concession lease for Managaha Island expanded its business venture yesterday with the grand opening of a new marine sports facility that caters to tourists and locals alike.

Tasi Tours & Transportation

CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left, Japan Consul to the CNMI Tsutomu Higuchi, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and Tasi Tours & Transportation president Kazusuke Fukuju, and Japan Consul to the CNMI Tsutomu Higuchi led the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the grand opening of Coconut Beach Club yesterday behind Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe.

Inc. and its key officials were joined by dignitaries and guests during the grand opening of Coconut Beach Club behind Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe on Dec. 1.

Coconut Beach Club offers marine sports fans with different water sports activities such as banana boat rides, parasailing, and jet skiing.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Tasi Tours president Kazusuke Fukuju, and Japan Consul to the CNMI Tsutomu Higuchi led the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Coconut Beach Club shop and office.

In his remarks, Fitial acknowledged how Tasi Tours keeps showing its confidence in the future of the CNMI through its significant investments that help boost tourism on the islands.

"Tasi Tours takes yet another bold step despite the current challenges of our economy. This is a true testament to the company's dedicated service to the government and to the residents of our Commonwealth," he said.

Fitial encouraged Tasi Tours to extend its market to local clients and use local talents and skills in maintaining the operations of the new club.

"Social responsibility is

deeply rooted by the amount of support that one provides to our local communities. Tapping our local workforce will also enhance this new beach club's ability to reflect the true spirit of island hospitality," said Fitial.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said that Tasi Tours continues to dream big, despite the economic challenges it has endured for over 30 years.

Tasi Tours president Fukuju said their eagerness to attract more tourists to the CNMI and give them a secure water sports facility inspired them to establish Coconut Beach Club.

"It is a great challenge to come up with a business in this time of recession. But we need to attract more tourists for this island and we believe we can do that through Coconut Beach Club," he said.

General manager David Igitol said fees for all water sports services at Coconut Beach Club will be reasonable for both tourists and locals.

He said the club will be featured in the brochures of Japan Travel Bureau, the main company that handles Tasi Tours.

Their water sports services will also be advertised in tour packages for Japanese tourists, Igitol added.

'House majority is now the minority'

» **Froilan: OPA, OAG do not want to get involved in LB chief issue**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that what was once an 11-member House majority now has only nine members because Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Rota) are now siding with the minority bloc.

"The majority is now the minority," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* when asked about an alleged reorganization plan being hatched by House members.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) did not want to comment on the matter, when asked yesterday afternoon.

Benavente is the minority candidate for speaker, a position he previously held before becoming a lieutenant governor.

When the 17th House came in, the majority consisted of seven Covenant Party members and four independents, while the minority consisted of nine Republicans.

As far as the speaker is concerned, the numbers have shifted.

Tenorio, a former governor, said if the minority makes a motion to reorganize the House and elect a new speaker during its session on Tuesday, he will step down as speaker.

"I will resign as speaker so they can go ahead with the

reorganization and election," he said.

Torres separately said he and the speaker began to head separate ways when Torres did not sign a letter appointing former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan as the new Legislative Bureau director to replace Glenna SP. Reyes. He said after that incident, he has been avoiding leadership meetings.

"By Friday, I will make my decision whether to go for broke or not," he said.

Santos, for her part, declined to comment.

Tenorio said in October that he will step down as speaker to be able to work on bills that he wants to introduce and to spend more time in his brother's private business.

He said when he steps down, he will support Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) candidacy as speaker.

On the petition to oust Glenna SP Reyes as LB director, Tenorio maintains that Reyes' appointment and contract have already expired based, but the Senate insists otherwise.

He said if the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor want to do something about the sticky issue of Reyes' contract, they would have done so a long time ago.

"But they do not want to get involved. I don't expect to hear from the AG and OPA," he said.

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Reksid still on DPL payroll

Franz B. Reksid remains on government payroll as special assistant to the Department of Public Lands secretary after his indictment on charges of soliciting a bribe from a company that

had wanted to bag a federally funded contract with DPL.

Reksid was working at the DPL office yesterday but declined to talk to the media.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar

M. Babauta declined to comment, besides saying that the alleged violations against Reksid happened before his (Babauta) time at DPL.

Babauta referred this reporter

to DPL counsel Brad Huesman, who said the department is not commenting on the matter.

The Fitial administration is also not commenting.

"As is the case in all other

matters of this nature, the administration does not comment on matters that are now before the courts. The administration believes in the justice system and in the observance of due process," press secretary Angel Demapan said.

The indictment, which was filed under seal in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on

Tuesday, charged the 70-year-old Reksid with one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds, particularly from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Reksid pleaded not guilty. He was released on a \$25,000 bond. His jury trial will start on Jan. 18, 2011, at 9am. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

Another \$10K consultancy 'contract' for Raaj Kurapati

The Northern Marianas College has approved a \$9,950 "contract" for its former chief financial and administrative officer, Raaj Kurapati, who is based in Alaska.

The purchase order was approved by NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, acting chief financial officer Dawn Revilla, and concurred by the finance office on Tuesday, Nov. 30.

The new purchase order requires Kurapati to review the college's 2009 audit findings and work with grantor agencies on resolving issues identified by the audit. He will be tasked to propose corrective actions and negotiate and talk with grantor agencies on the findings.

He is also required to compile supporting documents for presentation to grantor agencies and schedule meetings with them.

The \$9,950 contract includes a trip to Washington, D.C. this first week of December so Kurapati could meet with grantor agency personnel.

Saipan Tribune learned that Kurapati's services are now done through purchase orders, instead of contracts. Once services are delivered, the former CFAO bills NMC for payment.

It was learned early this year that NMC has been using Kurapati's services since 2008, soon after he resigned, and he has been paid over \$60,000 for his consultancy services. His work ranged from analyzing audit reports, to training an incoming CFO, to reviewing NMC's procurement policies and procedures.

Roger Madriaga was hired in December 2008 to replace Kurapati. He then resigned and Henry Hofschneider was named to the post. Last week, Hofschneider quit. (*Moneth Deposa*)

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17 gov't agencies asked to disclose legal service contracts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Private citizens filed 18 Open Government Act requests for information from 17 government agencies, including the Office of the Governor and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., relating to employment and independent legal service contracts awarded to attorneys since January 2008.

Former representative Tina Sablan, retiree William R. Barrineau, and attorney Mark Hanson filed separate OGA requests from Nov. 1 to Nov. 29.

Sablan said they are interested in obtaining a broad picture of the range of legal fees being paid by CNMI taxpayers. She said they want to examine any

disparities in terms of both compensation and work products between government legal counsels in excepted or civil service positions and private attorneys or firms who have received government contracts for legal services.

"Legal services have historically been, and continue to be, a major government expenditure, as well as a significant source of abuse. We intend to bring to light any abuses of public funds or the CNMI procurement process that may have occurred, and may take further action as necessary," Sablan said.

Under the Open Government Act, government officials and agencies shall respond to requests for information within 10 days and make public records available for inspection. Govern-

ment agencies can charge a reasonable fee for copying requested documents.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked whether the Fitial administration will be releasing the documents, said "each office that received the OGA request shall respond in accordance to the provisions of the act."

Sablan said at a time when the CNMI is facing the worst fiscal crisis in its history, the people have an imperative to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent as prudently as possible, and that procurement laws and regulations are followed in order to foster transparent and competitive bidding for contracts, and reasonable expenditures of public funds.

Hanson filed an OGA request for information from the Commonwealth

RETIREMENT

From Page 1

payments to help the government generate revenue. Pension payments are right now exempted from government taxes.

Under the present setup, survivor's benefits are split equally with the deceased member's spouse and children, each receiving 50 percent.

"We discussed and presented to the Legislature our proposal to decrease the survivor benefits. Our recommendation is to decrease it from 50 percent to 25 percent to spouse and 25 percent to children. We requested the Attorney General's Office in the drafting of the legislation," Alepuyo said.

From the existing retirement age of 62, the Fund wants this changed to 65

or 67 for a member to become eligible for retirement.

"There is also a law that says when you put in, like 20 years, you could actually retire if you will pay a penalty for every year you're under 62 years old. We would like to amend that and take out completely if possible," she added.

Death claims, Alepuyo added, must also be reduced to reflect the audited figures of the pension program.

\$84M savings for Fund

Alepuyo said the Fund also supports the passage of a pending bill at the Senate, S.B. 17-34, which allows the agency to provide compounding annual retirement bonuses in lieu of COLA, or cost of living allowance.

"We recommend the immediate passage of Senate Bill 17-34, or the COLA

bill, because our actuary, Buck Consultant, said that passage of this bill will bring \$84 million over to the life of the Fund...and that's huge," Alepuyo told the board.

It was also disclosed that the Fund is backing legislation that will make government employer contributions a line-item appropriation for each department, agency, or subdivision, rather than as a percentage of the defined benefit member payroll.

The Fund also favors a stop in the division of the \$1,000 lump sum death benefit among the designated beneficiaries of a member and allows the non-vested members to be converted to the defined contribution plan. These non-vested members include Class I members with less than 15 years of service and Class II members with less than 20 years of service.

GOVENDO

From Page 1

The justices ruled that Govendo's statements made in the hearings in Roger Castillo's domestic abuse case and two adoption cases, "unequivocally crossed the line of what constitutes permissible judiciary commentary within the courtroom and must be sanctioned."

Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Justices Pro Tem Edward Manibusan and Vern P. Perez in a unanimous decision recommended that Govendo attend the National Judicial College's Ethics, Fairness, and Security in Your Courtroom and Community currently scheduled from Oct. 24 to 27, 2011.

The justices said Govendo may petition the CNMI Supreme Court to take a different course that may be offered earlier by a different institution, but an online class will not be accepted.

The justices said Govendo shall not apply for any outside funding for the purpose of attending the program.

The other sanction requires the judge to write a letter of apology to the people of the CNMI for making these statements.

The justices said the letter of apology shall be submitted to the CNMI Supreme Court for its review and approval within 15 days.

"In connection with the publication of this letter, Judge Govendo shall bear the expense of taking out advertisements in two newspapers of local circulation in order to ensure that the letters are published in their entirety," the justices said.

The justices also ordered that Govendo be reassigned from the Family Court Division for a period of one year.

The justices said to ensure a smooth transition, the reassignment shall be done at the direction of Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja within 60 days.

On Aug. 25, 2010, the CNMI Supreme Court found that Govendo violated certain provisions of the Commonwealth Code of Judicial Conduct, as well as some of the Commonwealth Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

As a result, the court conducted a hearing on Oct. 15, 2010 to determine the appropriate sanction to impose.

In imposing sanctions, the justices said Govendo violated many of the judicial canons and rules with his statements, and as a result, "he has lowered the bar with respect to the judiciary's reputation in the eyes of the people of the Commonwealth."

"No doubt the parties before him during these proceedings, two of which were petitioners for adoption, likely felt prejudiced, and likely left the courthouse with a feeling that the court did not dispense impartial justice," they said.

"These statements essentially amount to angry tirades. The adoption comments are even more shocking as he attacked innocent and valued members of our community, and accused them of wishing to adopt all Filipinos and ruin the Commonwealth in the process," the justices said.

The justices noted that while Castillo was a serially abusive husband, the adoption petitioners were law-abiding members of the community.

The justices said Govendo certainly had the right to question the petitioners to determine that the adoptions were legal, but it is beyond the pale of acceptable judicial conduct to accuse would

be parents of inappropriate motives just because they wanted to adopt Filipino children.

"No party or lawyer can tell a judge on the bench to be quiet, so when Judge Govendo decided to berate the people before him, there was nothing they could do other than be publicly humiliated," the justices said.

Therefore, the justices said, the comments caused substantial harm to the judiciary as they cast disrepute on all of the judges and justices of the Commonwealth courts.

The justices said Govendo exhibited a pattern of losing his temper on the bench, and he also exhibited a pattern of making remarks that create an appearance of racial bias.

With respect to Govendo's statements during the sentencing of Kurk Palacios in a sex abuse case, the justices said the defendant did not disrespect the court in any manner, and sat silent during most of the hearing.

"Judge Govendo's voice, however, was raised and he sounded agitated; at times he shouted at the defendant, the defendant's family, and seemingly at everyone in the courtroom," the justices said.

When Govendo turned his attention to the defendant's family, the justices said, he accused them of failing to raise their son properly.

"Throughout the entire remarks, Judge Govendo sounded uncomposed, exasperated, and angry. Simply put, Judge Govendo had lost his composure, and spoke as an outraged and not as a neutral arbiter," the justices said.

The justices said Govendo's remarks moved away from moral reproach directed towards Palacios and instead attacked the Commonwealth as a whole.

Utilities Corp., while Barrineau filed request for data from the NMI Retirement Fund and the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees.

Sablan filed requests for information from 15 agencies, including the Office of the Governor, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Commerce, Department of Finance, Department of Public Safety, and the

Office of the Attorney General.

Completing the list are the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Development Authority, Northern Marianas College, Department of Public Lands, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Labor, Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, and Marianas Public Land Trust.

DELAYED

From Page 1

critical personnel are expected to receive their payroll on either Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

"Due to insufficient funds to cover payroll expenses, the government is once again forced to delay payroll disbursement for government employees who are employed in non-critical services," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Similar to the previous delayed paydays, only critical service personnel such as police officers, fire fighters, corrections officers, juvenile detention officers, doctors and nurses will be paid on Friday, which is an "austerity Friday" which means most government offices are closed.

All federally funded personnel will also receive their paychecks on time.

Payroll will be processed as automatic transfer, Demapan added.

In addition, government employees are likely not to get paid on Constitution Day on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

"It is very unlikely that December 8th will be a paid holiday as the administration is concentrating efforts to ensure that expenditure levels are kept within the limits prescribed by the cur-

rent appropriations law," Demapan added.

Employees on Capital Hill frowned over another payless payday, after getting advance payroll for the past two pay periods.

A mother of four said a few days' delay in the release of payroll means a lot to families, when one thinks about food, fuel, utility, and other bills for days.

"We know now that sometimes we will have delayed payroll because the government does not have enough money. We just got lucky twice because we received our paychecks in advance. But I tell you, it will still be hard for us employees," the employee said.

Under the Fiscal Year 2011 budget law, Executive Branch agency employees will be subjected to a 16-hour cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays.

This means most employees get paid for only 64 hours instead of the regular 80 hours per pay period.

The Judiciary and the Legislature have also implemented austerity days and hours to live within their allotted budget.

This will be the sixth time that the CNMI government will have a partial payless payday since June because of severe cash shortage.

MILITARY

From Page 1

terday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

In his presentation about the squadron's capabilities, mission, and community relations, Awai said the \$1,038,200 in economic impact of each ship on an annual basis also include lodging or hotel services, air transportation services for crew change, shipping, and other individual personnel spending while on island.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, underscored the "largely unrecognized" impacts of these military ships on the local economy.

Jay Santos, also a Chamber member, said he hopes there will be more military ships anchored off the west coast of Saipan.

Awai, in an interview with reporters after the meeting, said the ongoing training of some 175 visiting U.S. military personnel in offloading military preposition force ships at sea is not in any way connected to the latest tension between North and South Korea or the multi-billion military buildup in the Marianas.

"This (training) was planned way before what happened in North Korea," he said.

Military personnel started arriving on Saipan on Sunday for the training, which will wrap up on Dec. 10.

"By the time we're done, we're expecting 175 (people)," Awai said.

This is the first military training of its kind to be held in the CNMI.

It involves training junior military personnel in offloading military preposition force ships right at sea wherein

they could actually see the impact of the wind and the seas, among other things. This is far different from their training at inland facilities.

The mission of a military preposition force ship is to quickly and efficiently deliver military cargo and supplies to a designated area in response to a crisis or humanitarian disaster. There are currently five of these ships in the Guam and Saipan area.

"It's not new that we're doing the training but it's new that they flew to Saipan for this. We have new people to come on and they do training at a regular facility but they don't really do it on a ship. This gives them an opportunity to work with the military sealift preposition ships in the area," he said.

Awai said at this time, there is no telling whether this type of training will be held on a regular basis on Saipan.

The 175 military personnel involved in the ongoing training are from the San Diego-based Naval Beach Group 1 and the Williamsburg, Va.-based Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 1.

They are in the Saipan-based ships USNS *1st Lt. Jack Lummus* and USNS *1st Lt. Harry L. Martin* of the Maritime Preposition Ship Squadron 3.

Chamber's Student Career Day

In other news, hundreds of students and employers participated in the Chamber's 2010 Student Career Exploration Day.

Each student got to shadow or observe private sector officials and employees in their natural working environment.

These students also attended the Chamber meeting yesterday.

Brennan thanked Kanae Quinn of the Chamber Education Committee for leading the program.

Marianas Medical to open Garapan branch on Dec. 6

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Marianas Medical Center, the renowned health facility that offers quality medical and health care services on Saipan, will reach new heights on Dec. 6 when it opens a new branch along Beach Road in downtown Garapan.

The newly added medical center located in the JKR Building adjacent to the Garapan Fishing Base guarantees the same commitment in providing excellent medical services at reasonable rates for which Marianas Medical is known.

Operations manager Thelma Cabrera said in an interview that they wanted to put up a branch in the central part of Saipan to bring Marianas Medical Center closer to businesses on this side of the island. "Garapan is a prime location," she added.

Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* that the Garapan branch was a three-year project that required the services of Construction Management Associates.

"The building was already constructed but we had to revamp a lot of things, from electrical to plumbing. Everything had to be redone before we

could finally occupy the building," said Cabrera, adding that they are the first tenant for the Yumul family-owned building.

Cabrera said Marianas Medical Center owner Dr. Anthony Stearns opened the doors of the initial branch in San Antonio back in 1998.

Stearns, who moved to Saipan in 1984 and initially worked with the U.S. Public Health Service/National Health Service Corps, became a part of the Dr. Torres Hospital and the Commonwealth Health Center before practicing full time at Marianas Medical Center.

Cabrera said the Marianas Medical Center's first branch south of the Department of Labor was situated on the island's industrial area during the era of garment factories.

"The San Antonio location initially provided medical services for contract workers' physical examination and food handler certifications so we catered to garment and other non-resident workers," she said.

Since then, Cabrera said Marianas Medical Center has evolved significantly, expanding its services to include a wider range of medical care and facilities.

Besides physical examination

and food handler certification, Marianas Medical Center now provides full extent of family practice medical needs, including pre-natal and newborn care, adolescent and adult medical care as well as immunizations.

Marianas Medical Center also has ultrasound and x-ray equipment and provides urgent care for minor emergencies, scuba diving and sports physical, urine drug screening, merchant marine license examinations, and FAA medical examination.

Cabrera said majority of their 25-member staff will work at the new Garapan branch under the auspices of its main physician, Dr. Stearns.

The Marianas Medical Center branch in Garapan will have its grand opening tomorrow, Dec. 3, from 11 am to 2pm. Dr. Stearns and wife Janet McCullough

will lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a Community Open House and lunch.

Marianas Medical Center in Garapan will officially open on Dec. 6, Monday. Clinic hours are from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. The office will be closed on Sundays and holidays.

For appointment or more information, call 234-3925 to 27.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marianas Medical Center staff Shirley Wanket and Rachel Bastareche at their new branch in Garapan. Inset, the facade of the Marianas Medical Center located along Beach Road adjacent to the Garapan Fishing Base.



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Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid, Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. I have had my request granted. Thank you St. Jude.



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Search for biggest deer horn, best deer kelaguen at Rota festival

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hunters from the CNMI and Guam will now have a chance to showcase their hunting prowess as the first ever search for the biggest Sambar deer horn, the biggest deer skull, and the best deer kelaguen take place tomorrow on Rota.

Arvin C. Ogo, vice chair of the Rota Municipal Council, said yesterday that the Rota deer trophy festival is the first of its kind in the CNMI and is expected to draw visitors to the island.

"We are planning to hold this every year starting this year. We are inviting everyone to come to the festival. Hunters from Rota and Guam are also encouraged to join," Ogo told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Rota is the only island in the Marianas where the hunting of Sambar deer (*binadu* in Chamorro) is allowed during the hunting season of Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 every year.

The festival will be held at the Rota Roundhouse on Friday, Dec. 3, at 5pm. Registration, however, will begin at 4pm.

Ogo said there will be three competitions, including the search for the biggest deer horn. Entries for this competition should be those hunted during the 2010 hunting season.

The second contest will be the search for the biggest deer skull. Ogo said entries for this category should be those hunted during previous hunting seasons.

Ogo said the third competition is the deer kelaguen making contest.

"Besides having a community event, this festival also aims to encourage hunters with firearms to comply with Division

of Fish and Wildlife regulations because only those with licensed firearms will be allowed to join. In a way, it's an incentive for hunters to be licensed hunters," he added.

Vendors are also encouraged to sell items on the festival grounds.

The deer trophy festival is hosted by the Rota Municipal Council, in cooperation with the Rota Mayor's Office, the Rota Legislative Delegation, and the Rota Division of Fish and Wildlife under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

To register or for more information about the deer trophy festival, contact the Rota Municipal Council at 532-4046.

The festival also comes two months after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a law allowing the raising of Sambar deer in captivity.

The hunting of Sambar deer in the CNMI is seasonal, as established by regulation to control their continued existence and prevent their extinction.

Student scores 'too long' wait for SHEFA's decision

» Board assures expedited review of all pending appeals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A first-time applicant for Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance expressed frustration yesterday over the lengthy time she is being made to wait for a decision on her scholarship application.

Aleth Kae L. Atalig, a student of Northern Marianas College, applied for a SHEFA scholarship through its website on June 23. A complete packet of documents and other requirements was also turned in to management.

Almost two months after her filing, she received a letter denying her application. It cited her residency status as a factor. She appealed her case on Sept. 1, and submitted other requirements.

To date, no decision has been made in her case and Atalig said yesterday that the longer she waits, the longer it affects her and her studies.

"This was my first time to apply for a grant-in-aid assistance...and I am frustrated and worried. Before I went to school, I was working as a full-time legal secretary and a part-time server in Capriciossa. I was earning enough for all my expenses. I quit my part-time job and my hours were reduced in the firm because I was going to school... and then I relied on my scholarship," she said.

SHEFA's grant-in-aid provides \$1,200 for eligible on-island students and \$2,000 for off-island recipients. These funds are sourced from fees

generated from poker licenses.

Atalig is also a beneficiary of the CNMI Scholarship Office, but now that checks are being delayed, she was counting on her application with SHEFA to take up the slack.

She admitted that the situation is now affecting her studies because she's worried about her bills. "Instead of me devoting all my energy in school, I think of my bills. The fall semester is about to end and there is no specific date yet for my scholarships or a decision on my SHEFA application."

Atalig is just one of many students who were earlier denied SHEFA scholarships because of their residency status. Last month, the board reversed decisions on 28 denied applications. Unfortunately, Atalig's case was not in that batch.

All she's asking for, Atalig said, is for SHEFA to clarify its rules and regulations so as not to confuse applicants.

Acting SHEFA administrator Jeff Tomokane said yesterday that Atalig's appeal is among the many applications currently under review by the board's appeals committee.

Tomokane promised to have a decision in Atalig's case in the next couple of weeks when the board adopts formal action.

"The appeals committee is now looking into those appeal cases and the board has mentioned that they will finish all the review and decision in the next couple of weeks," said Tomokane.

This fall semester, SHEFA received over 900 applications; only 628 were approved.

Microl Parts Department

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Intoxicated man allegedly beats up wife in front of 3 kids

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman was given shelter at Guma Esperanza, her fourth time, after her husband allegedly beat her up in front of her three minor children at their residence in Garapan on Sunday.

John Mendiola Camacho, 40, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault and battery, assault, child abuse, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a \$100,000 cash bail for the temporary release of Camacho, but he later reduced it at \$25,000 cash after defendant's counsel, Joaquin Torres, moved the court to reconsider the order.

Inos ordered Camacho to stay away from the victim and her three children. The judge also prohibited him from having direct or indirect contact with the victim and the children.

Preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 9, 2010 at 9am.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that on Sunday afternoon a police officer responded to a Garapan apartment after receiving a call about a domestic violence.

Aldan said the officer later arrested Camacho after conducting an investigation.

Aldan said according to the victim, Camacho started drinking beer at 12:30pm until the time of the beating at 5pm that day.

As the victim and her three minor children were sitting on her bed watching TV, Camacho walked into the room and turned off the TV and unplugged it.

The defendant shouted at his wife and their children to get out and sleep on the balcony or on the road.

Camacho pushed his wife from the bedroom through the hallway and shouted to get out and take her children with her.

The wife went back to the bedroom where the children were.

Camacho grabbed two children by their arms and pulled them off the bed and yelled at them to get out because he was going to beat up their mother.

Camacho spanked one child on the buttocks and closed all the windows and doors of the house.

Due to fear, the three children were crying as the defendant pushed his wife against the wall. He shouted at the children to watch him beating up their mother.

Camacho then punched his wife on the left cheek, then grabbed her by the hair. The wife cried and told the defendant to stop hitting her.

Camacho stopped and walked out the back door where he sat on a chair. A police officer later arrived.

Detective Aldan's report did not mention the wife's injuries.

The victim said she does not know why Camacho suddenly became violent. She told police that the defendant threatened he would hang her after he gets out from jail.

One of the children also told police that Camacho threatened he would kill all of them.

Detective Aldan said it was the fourth time that the victim was given shelter because of Camacho's beating.

Aldan said he learned that there is an outstanding bench warrant for the arrest of Camacho on May 14, 2009 for the same type of case—domestic violence.

Aldan requested no bail for the defendant. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo initially granted Aldan's request for no bail.

At yesterday's hearing, Camacho intervened several times while Judge Inos was talking with the defendant's counsel, Joaquin Torres.

Inos warned Camacho he would impose a \$1 million bail if he would not stop talking.

Inos then announced that the bail is \$100,000 cash. Torres objected and asked the court to reconsider it as the amount is too high and does not justify with the charges.

The judge reconsidered his order and set a \$25,000 cash bail instead.

Assistant Attorney General Shelli Neal appeared for the government at the hearing.

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Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Sandy Beach Homes, LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed construction of a residential complex, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

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'Another shot at suspending zoning law'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is opposed to House Bill 17-115 because of its similarity to a local bill that aims to suspend the zoning law on the island.

Board chair Herminia M. Fusco wrote lawmakers on Nov. 22 to express the board's opposition to the Repeal of the Saipan Zoning Law Act of 2010, which she said is "nearly identical" to HLB 17-1 or the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 Suspension Act.

Both bills were introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) who has been vocal in his opposition to the board and its decisions.

The Saipan and Northern Is-

lands Legislative Delegation "filed" or killed HLB 17-1 in October.

According to Fusco, the justification for both bills is the "unintended" issues encountered by local businesses and zoning clients concerning the implementation of zoning rules and regulations that "have proven to be detrimental" to the business community and the CNMI.

HB 17-115 aims to repeal the zoning code until such time the delegation is able to address the zoning-related issues and propose new and simplified zoning rules.

Fusco pointed out that the new bill does not show how businesses will gain from repealing the zoning code.

She said the Saipan Chamber of Commerce already affirmed their stance that most businesses on island "favor fair and sound zoning practices."

"Investors are more willing to come to Saipan if they are assured consistent development principles," she added.

Fusco stressed that the zoning process is functioning more efficiently through the changes that zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt has implemented since he took over the position in July.

She said these changes include the decrease in the number of application forms, modifying

internal processes for evaluating land-use cases, and introducing a more interactive land-use review with the applicant.

Moreover, Fusco said the board and office are working on revising the law, amendments to which will be available for public comments and review before submission to the delegation.

Fusco pointed out that there will always be people who will be displeased with the zoning rules and regulations but these rules must still be enforced to advance the good of the Commonwealth.

"A continuing cycle of enacting and suspending the zoning laws is to no one's benefit," she added.

Search teams find capsized vessel of 4 missing Marshalls mariners

HONOLULU—A Navy C-130 aircrew from the Condors of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 64 based out of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, found the capsized vessel of four missing mariners 12 miles southeast of Arno Atoll, Monday.

The Coast Guard, Navy and search crews from the Republic of Marshall Islands continue to search for the four people who were aboard the boat.

The HC-130 Hercules aircrew, from Air Station Barbers

Point, immediately diverted to the position of the 14-foot capsized boat. The aircrew conducted a search for any signs of people in the water or debris. A self-locating datum marker buoy was deployed from the aircraft. This is a drifting surface buoy that measures surface ocean currents designed for deployment in search and rescue missions and is equipped with a global positioning satellite sensor that transmits its location periodically to search and rescue coordinators. (USCG)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 2, 1998

CUC cracks down on big-time delinquents

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is hiring a firm to go after the largest debtors who have yet to pay more than \$600,000 in overdue accounts in a move to shore up its revenues, officials said. Board directors of the government-owned corporation have approved a request from CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez to retain an independent agency to pursue the debt collection. "We are requesting to contract on a contingency basis so that there is no cost to CUC and have the firm collect on those debts that are determined to be collectable so that we may resolve these with the best result possible," Villagomez said.

Candlelight vigil kicks off 3-D month

A candlelight vigil parade was held Monday night, signaling the start of Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who proclaimed the month of December as 3-D Month, headed the parade along with DPS Commissioner Charles Ingram. The Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month is an annual event celebrated in the CNMI as well as in other states to emphasize saving lives by eliminating impaired driving. This year's theme, "Putting Together the Pieces of Safe Communities to Take A Stand Against Impaired Driving," was carried on from last year. For years, DPS has taken steps to inform the public of the effects of impaired driving. The nation had lost countless lives because of people who chose to drive while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Dec. 2, 1999

Tinian Shipping settles \$7.5M debt

Operators of the Tinian-Saipan ferry service have settled their dispute with a financial firm over their debts amounting to over \$7.5 million, according to a statement released yesterday by the Tinian Shipping & Transportation, Inc. Details of the settlement were not disclosed, but the shipping company said the agreement reached recently with Debis Financial Inc. allows the permanent release of the two vessels plying Tinian and Saipan to Tinian Shipping. The news came nearly two months after the U.S. District Court on Saipan ordered the release of the two vessels on Oct. 4 following payment of \$800,000 to the court by the shipping firm.

Rota exemption from excise tax

The Rota municipality is trying to seek a limited waiver on the imposition of excise taxes on telecommunications equipment and machinery to encourage the private sector to develop cellular technology on the island, which is only available on Saipan and Tinian. Rep. David M. Apatang, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, and Rota Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola have filed a bill granting the six-month tax break on the island municipality. The legislation, which is expected to be taken up in the next House session, stressed that the needs of the private industry must be balanced against the government's duty to raise revenues.

Dec. 2, 2002

Judge OKs BoS payments

Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan has approved the request of Bank of Saipan receiver Antonio Muna to begin paying off the professional services rendered to the bank and the receivership-including his own fee-totaling more than \$100,000. Manibusan also approved Muna's report covering the period from his appointment to the receivership in late September until the end of October. Muna's fees totaled \$20,393.33. But unlike his predecessor, Randall Fennell, who got flak from some shareholders for charging at a rate of about \$100 per hour, there was no reported opposition to Muna's fees. Muna has expressed support for the bank's rehabilitation, while Fennell was pushing for liquidation.

Forbidden Island now more accessible

It is a window to a naturally artistic sight: the picture of the Forbidden Island, an isolated rock formation off southern Saipan, against the backdrop of the vast deep ocean that fades from azure to a dark distant blue as it meets the sky in the horizon. That is the sight that would greet you once you step into the newly inaugurated Forbidden Island Lookout, a windy spot hundreds of feet above sea level that serves to make the majestic view accessible to the public. Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Tom Pangelinan and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela yesterday led DLNR officials in inaugurating the Forbidden Island Lookout.


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


INVITATION TO BID

ITB11-TDOL-022

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2010 TIME: 11:00 A.M.



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/s/ JASPER M. BORJA
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


INVITATION TO BID

ITB11-DPW/ED-028

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


INVITATION TO BID

ITB11-DEQ-029 (A-D)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.


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/s/ FRANK M. RABULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



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PUBLIC NOTICE


Amendment No. 01

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTE
- IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
 - a. October 09, 2010 - Special Board Meeting Minute
- V. PROGRAM & HOUSING
- VI. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM
 - a. Loan Conversion Request
 - b. Payment Assistance Request
 - c. Loan/Grant Applications for Board's Approval
 - d. NSP Project Update
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VIII. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
- IX. FISCAL AFFAIRS
 - a. RD Settlement Report
 - b. Financial Statements
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XI. OTHER MATTERS
 - a. LIHTC 1602 Mortgage Subordination
 - b. Rota Field Office Merge
 - c. NMHC Telephone System
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

 NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for procurement of the following:

- (1) Data-Base System for managing, maintaining and evaluating data as it relates to the organization's client base; and/or
- (2) Computer system(s) and networking options for the organization's staff.

NMPASI is the designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the data-base system and/or computer system(s)/networking should be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than December 15, 2010.

Award will be based on specific factors such as responsiveness to specific, unique needs of the organization, prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. Please call (670) 235-7273/4 [tel] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or email jamesrayphand@yahoo.com to schedule a meeting with Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director, and/or other NMPASI staff to discuss the organization's specific needs as they relate to above.

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| ✓ Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | ✓ Gold Earrings up to \$200 | ✓ Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | ✓ Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Watch out for Wikileaks

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Many disclosures of classified information, such as the release of the Pentagon Papers in 1971, have served the public interest by shedding light on the previously obscure development of government policy. The latest document dump by WikiLeaks, consisting of diplomatic cables rather than military reports, so far falls short of that noble purpose, though it contains some fascinating—even titillating—details. The primary objective seems to be to embarrass the United States and complicate its foreign policy.

We don't question the right of news organizations to publish excerpts of the 250,000 diplomatic dispatches released by WikiLeaks. For good or ill, the information was going to end up in the public domain. The responsible party is WikiLeaks.

The revelations include unflattering characterizations by American officials of foreign leaders and details about how Arab leaders have beseeched the United States to attack Iran. They also show that U.S. diplomats have been asked to gather personal information about foreign officials, among them U.N. representatives. One cable described how a U.S. diplomat in Germany urged that country to "weigh carefully" the arrest of CIA officers suspected in the torture of a German national suspected of terrorism—because there might be implications for the Germany-U.S. relationship.

Few of the disclosures would surprise anyone who followed the practice of foreign diplomacy, in which private conversations are often at odds with public pronouncements and diplomats engage in intelligence-gathering, not just cocktail-party pleasantries (though under the so-called Humint program described in the documents, the sought-after information was exceedingly specific). Likewise, it was obvious that the U.S. would oppose the arrest of CIA agents, though it wasn't known how heavy-handed U.S. diplomats were.

By making these matters public, WikiLeaks has put American officials on the defensive. The White House's complaint that the disclosures were "dangerous and reckless" is probably an exaggeration, but they will make the conduct of foreign policy more difficult without providing much edification to the American public.

Rather than railing against WikiLeaks—or the news media—the Obama administration needs to take responsibility for safeguarding information at its source. Some have argued that the increased information-sharing among agencies required after 9/11 has made it easier for leakers to lay hands on a wide range of classified information. Whatever the explanation, the government failed in this instance—and has suffered for it.



Obama could learn from Bush

By RICHARD WOLFFE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The day before his party's shellacking in this month's elections, President Obama sat down with his economic team to examine the single most important issue for voters across the country: jobs.

But the question on the agenda was not how to accelerate the recovery or target job creation to the depressed Rust Belt. It wasn't even the challenge of how to persuade corporations to spend their cash piles on investments and jobs—although both have been extensively debated for many months. The president had called the meeting to grapple with what he and his propeller-head economists have been debating for some time: the wonkish question of whether today's high unemployment rate is structural or cyclical.

Such questions are no doubt vital to shaping economic and trade policies as well as the general worldview of the West Wing. But on the eve of an electoral disaster, the esoteric discussion in the Oval Office points to a larger challenge facing the Obama White House as it tries to stage its own revival.

Two years into this presidency, and many months into a sluggish recovery, may be a little late to try to agree on the root cause of today's high unemployment.

This lack of agreement on economic fundamentals is a primary factor behind one of this White House's most obvious failures: communications. As one senior Obama adviser told me the day after the disastrous midterms: "It was hard to find a single economic message when the economic team couldn't agree on a single economic policy."

Key members of Obama's dysfunctional economic team have finally left the administration, and one of his most visible staff shake-ups will be the gathering of a new team. However, a new economic team will not resolve the communications problems, as the president has readily admitted in recent weeks.

In fact, the president has been frustrated by his communications strategy for most of the last year. Such a chronic problem is not the result of a lack of talent inside the West Wing. Nor is it solely the result of high unemployment, as Obama's aides insist in public. Obama told me six months ago that poor communications had hampered his ability to execute his policies, and that was after several months of internal reviews.

But the White House has failed to realize that the communications problem is a symptom of Obama's problems, not a cause.

If Obama is serious about reclaiming his own narrative, he might want to look to the example of a man whose record he trashed at every turn in the presidential election: George W. Bush.

Six years ago, Bush's reelection campaign faced a daunting set of circumstances. Iraq had spiraled into a brutal civil war, while

the rationale for the invasion had collapsed along with any signs of weapons of mass destruction. Job growth across Bush's four years in office was anemic, and there was deep concern about a so-called jobless recovery. Polls showed only about 40 percent of voters saying the country was on the right track.

So how did Bush survive? With a disciplined message and an undisciplined opponent.

Bush's self-styled mission was clear from beginning to end, whether or not you agreed with his policies: He wanted to keep America safe and fight the terrorists. He also was blessed with an opponent, John F. Kerry, who struggled to define or defend himself and stumbled over his own message on national security.

What is Obama's mission? His landmark economic legislation—the \$814 billion Recovery Act—has been billed as a job creator, a job saver, a tax cutter and an investment in the nation's future. It may be all of those things, but it has proved exceptionally hard to be all things to all people. As Vice President Joe Biden told me, few voters know who saved the teachers' jobs in their children's schools, while many employees had no idea they were getting a tax cut with the extra money in their paychecks. Both were in fact thanks to Obama's Recovery Act.

The lesson of 2004 is that the president cannot be an empty vessel for hope, no matter how big or small his own hopeful base. And if he doesn't fill the vessel with his own story of how and why he delivered on hope, then his opponents will fill it for him.

Despite their postelection gloom, there are in fact several reasons for Obama's supporters to be hopeful. The stock market, a central indicator of investor confidence, has regained most of the ground it lost since the financial meltdown of 2008. Growth has returned and employment is inching upward. Over the next two years, there is plenty of time for that growth and employment to accelerate.

Then there is this salient fact: The pundits have prematurely written this president's obituary too many times before. For most of the first year of his campaign, he was going nowhere. After the New Hampshire primary, he was a flash in the pan. After Texas, Ohio and Pennsylvania, he could not close the deal. After Sarah Palin's nomination, he was emasculated.

And, after the Democrats lost the Massachusetts Senate race, the Obama presidency was pronounced finished and health-care reform was presumed to be dead on arrival. That was just two months before Obama signed health-care reform into law, completing a Democratic dream and the biggest domestic legislation in a generation.

Reports of Obama's political death have been greatly exaggerated. To prove the pundits wrong, he needs to take control of writing his own story once more.

Richard Wolffe's latest book, Revival: The Struggle for Survival Inside the Obama White House, came out last week. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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Results management

"If you are trying to change the way you run a company, one of the most visible things you have to change is the way you compensate, reward and recognize people."—Paul Allaire, CEO Xerox Corp.

What if there was a way for your organization to get the most from everyone and everything it does, while at the same time giving more to those it serves and those who work for it? Sounds too good to be true, and perhaps it is, but some companies seem to have cracked the code when it comes to successfully operating their business in an efficient, effective, and profitable way. They have highly committed employees who are valued for their contribution and who give great service, thereby creating loyal customers who are highly committed to the organization.

It wasn't just Rosa Parks in Montgomery 55 years ago

By **STARITA SMITH**
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Dec. 1 marks the 55th anniversary of the refusal of Rosa Parks to give up her bus seat to a white man, so let's take a closer look at that event. It was not a spur of the moment thing. It was the culmination of years of work by many people.

Parks was already a civil rights veteran. Her husband, Richard, had been active with her in the NAACP in Montgomery since the 1940s. At the time of the boycott, she was secretary of the local chapter. Six months prior, she spent a couple of weeks at the integrated Highlander Center in Tennessee, where the focus was grassroots organizing and civil rights activism.

In 1953, after blacks in Baton Rouge, La., held a successful five-day boycott to desegregate buses there, activism ramped up in Montgomery. Later that year, Jo Ann Robinson, a professor at Alabama State, helped establish the Women's Political Council to try to get bus policies changed. E.D. Nixon, a community labor leader, and others challenged the city government, and a young minister named Martin Luther King Jr. moved to town.

Before Parks made her stand, two other black women had done the same thing earlier that year.

In March 1955, Claudette Colvin, who was 15, refused to give up her seat to a white man and was arrested. In October 1955, Mary Louise Smith, 18, was arrested for also refusing. But the NAACP deemed the girls too young, and some said too dark-skinned and poor, to be reliable test cases, so it did not support them.

Parks presented a more mature, light-skinned and middle-class face. On Dec. 1, 1955, when she was arrested, she called Nixon to bail her out. The next day, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, more than 40 other black ministers and a white minister named the Rev. Robert Graetz formed the Montgomery Improvement Association. The boycott began on Dec. 5.

Blacks chose to walk or organized carpools, despite the violent reaction by some whites. Vigilantes harassed drivers and bombed the homes of both King and Nixon.

Local prosecutors were more interested in going after the civil rights activists. King, along with dozens of others, was arrested and convicted of breaking Alabama's anti-boycott laws.

Meanwhile, civil rights lawyers filed a suit challenging the constitutionality of bus segregation, and after about a year in court, they won. On Dec. 20, 1956, the city of Montgomery received a court order banning the policy.

This victory belonged not just to Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. It belonged to everyone who was involved in the long struggle for civil rights and everyone who suffered along the way. And it belonged to those who devised and implemented shrewd strategies to confront a seemingly invincible power structure.

Yes, we should praise Rosa Parks on this day. But let's also praise the other strategists and activists that we too often neglect when we mythologize the civil rights movement and reduce it to two people: Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.

They played their parts. But so did a lot of other people.

Starita Smith is an instructor at the University of North Texas in Denton. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

Several years ago I worked with a client to install an idea generation program that awarded small cash bonuses based on the quality of the ideas. So many ideas were contributed that we had to create a group to monitor the ideas and decide how to effectively implement them. Project teams were formed around the best ideas and employees were compensated for the additional time they spent working on the project. In addition to increasing their revenue by 25 percent, the company had a more excited work environment, customers were better served, and there was greater efficiency in their operations.

What occurred through a natural progression with the company I worked with could be duplicated by any company willing to take the time to invest in their people. Implementing an effective management program involves changing the culture of the organization into an open, responsive, and positive environment where people take more initiative without fear of reprisal, exchange their ideas for improvement, are recognized and rewarded for contributions that advance the company in the four P's: Purpose (your values, mission and vision), Performance (producing results to achieve your strategic goals and objectives), Productivity (efficient use of resources), and Profits (through revenue enhancement and/or cost reduction).

It also involves creating self-managed teams, training, coaching, and leadership development. You would have to adapt the program to your unique needs, but here's how such a plan might work to optimize each of the four P's above and create greater overall results:

1. Individuals have an idea about how to enhance the purpose, performance, productivity, or profit of the organization and it is shared on a suggestion form.

2. All the ideas are reviewed regularly by a group or committee to identify the best ideas. Individuals may receive a small cash bonus for their ideas.

3. Simple ideas are implemented immediately; however, a request for proposal for the best ideas that require project management would be announced, with the originator of the idea given first preference. A simple one- to two-page paper would identify the outcome from the project, goals, resources, and timeline. Team members could be assembled at this time or after the proposal is accepted.

4. The proposals are reviewed and one proposal is chosen and awarded to a team. The projected dollars or points for the project are also awarded for the completed project outcome. There would be no points if the project is not completed, but possibly partial points if a portion of the project is completed and implemented with success. It often takes a period of time to accurately measure the long-term financial effect of a project, so points could be used to provide more flexibility, and then later translated to dollars.

5. The chosen team determines the team leader and the various roles of each of the members. A mentor/advisor could also be as-

How to make air travel slower and less safe

By **JAMES SHERK**
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

If you think air travel is bad now, just wait until the airport screeners unionize.

It's about to happen. The Obama administration just decided that the Transportation Security Administration will vote on unionizing next year. TSA Administrator John Pistole is widely expected to grant this union collective bargaining rights.

This will not improve holiday travel. Unions already make getting rid of problem employees difficult. Those screeners who pat down too enthusiastically will get a union to hide behind. Do you think that will improve travel? Americans put up with these screenings to protect against terrorists.

Unfortunately, unionizing will also reduce security. Consider what happened four years ago, when unionized airport screeners in Toronto protested their contract by hand-inspecting every piece of luggage. Lines of passengers waiting to get to their flights piled up over Thanksgiving. Toronto authorities eventually rushed 250,000 passengers onto their flights—without searching them. Fortunately, none of those passengers were terrorists. But as one Canadian security expert wryly noted, "If terrorists had known ... that their baggage wasn't going to be searched, that would have been bad."

Unions will reduce safety even without labor disputes. Collective bargaining requires the government to negotiate before changing working conditions. However, terrorists are not going to wait until bargaining ends to attack. Unions reduce the flexibility the government needs to respond to threats.

That is why the founders of the modern labor movement thought that unions belonged only in the private sector. They wanted unions to win workers a greater share of business profits. But the government earns no profits. Government unions organize against voters and taxpayers—something they thought made no sense. Even Franklin Roosevelt, America's most pro-union president, opposed

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.

signed or suggested to help develop the project. The team also develops the strategic activities and next action steps to take.

6. The project is entered into a database or calendar that tracks all the projects. It would include the goals and milestones which are regularly updated by the team.

7. A periodic status report is given by the team to allow the committee to review the progress of each project and determine if additional assistance is required. More important projects would require a weekly report to ensure they are progressing and to provide input.

8. When a project is finished, a completion form is submitted that gives the results of the project and the estimated earnings, savings, improvement, or benefit to the organization. In addition, a form would allow the team to determine the level of contribution of each team member and the dollars or points awarded would be divided among the team members, as determined by the team.

9. If points are awarded instead of dollars to each person, they could be accumulated over time to track an individual's overall contribution. At the end of a quarter, the total savings, earnings, improvements are calculated to come up with an accurate dollar amount. This is then awarded to each person based on their points as a percentage of the total points awarded to all projects completed in a specific timeframe. The fundamental purpose for a reward program is to build powerful partnerships between the organization and the individuals. Rewards should create greater collaboration to achieve the mission and goals of the organization.

10. Two to four times per year an awards ceremony recognizes your people for their contribution and the completed projects are announced as well as the savings, earnings, and benefits enjoyed from the projects. This is recorded and could also be published in a company newsletter or community paper. Besides cash payouts, there could be certificates, trophies, or plaques that have their team member's names engraved on them.

Once the foundation is laid, you would be able to complete most, if not all, of your initiatives in a timely manner, and there would be a continual flood of ideas being initiated and implemented that would advance the organization toward its mission and vision.

unionizing government. He considered unions obstructing public services intolerable.

The government eventually allowed some federal employees to unionize.

But Congress decided that the government needed maximum flexibility to protect national security. Employees of the CIA, the FBI, and the Secret Service do not collectively bargain with Uncle Sam. Nonetheless Obama appointees have decided that airport security screeners should. Why would the president do this? Political pressure. Unions are one of the most well-funded special interests in the country.

They collect dues from millions of workers and spend that money politicking. Unions ran half of the 20 largest Political Action Committees in the last election. One of their top political priorities is organizing more government employees. Private-sector union membership has been dwindling for decades. Unionized companies such as General Motors have lost ground to Honda and other more flexible non-union competitors. The government, however, has no competitors. Unionized government employees do not lose their jobs if they perform poorly. So public sector union ranks have expanded over the past generation.

Last year those paths crossed: a majority of union members now work in the government. The 21st century union movement consists largely of government employees.






Unionizing the TSA would add 50,000 dues-paying members to union ranks—as many as currently work for GM. Those workers would pay tens of millions in annual dues. Union leadership dearly wants this plum prize. Unions spent half a billion to elect the president. They spent more on the mid-term elections than the Chamber of Commerce did. So when they speak, Obama listens. Remember that when you're waiting in line for your holiday pat-down next Thanksgiving.

James Sherk is a senior policy analyst in labor economics at The Heritage Foundation.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲83 ▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲43 ▼22
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲79 ▼56
Honolulu	Showers	▲82 ▼72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲32 ▼25
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼76
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲81 ▼60
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼54
New York	Sunny	▲44 ▼31
Osaka	Showers	▲59 ▼44
Paris	Snow	▲33 ▼22
Pusan	Windy	▲52 ▼39
Rome	Showers	▲55 ▼43
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲45 ▼37
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲62 ▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲38 ▼29
Tokyo	Showers	▲63 ▼46
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲47 ▼34

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
10:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	
4:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
11:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low pressure is centered near 28N139E with a trough southwestward from the low to near 22N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 75 miles of a line from 23N133E to 25N137E. Divergence associated with an upper-level low centered near 10N140E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Guam and Yap within 75 miles of a line from 13N142E to 11N143E to 10N148E. A shear line has developed across the Northern Marshall Islands and extends westward from 8N180 across the Pohnpei area to near Chuuk at 6N151E along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line west of 164E. There are scattered showers and a few thunderstorms while east of 164E, there are scattered showers.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:43 AM	2:39 PM
Friday	3:42 AM	3:27 PM
Saturday	4:42 AM	4:19 PM
Sunday	5:43 AM	5:15 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:12 PM

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM+Palau	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM+Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM+Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM+Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Conner wants banks to transfer dormant accounts to govt

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian) said that banks operating on the islands have not been transferring to the CNMI government the funds that are remaining in dormant bank ac-

counts despite laws that allow such transfers.

Conner, a freshman lawmaker, said banks maintain that although the Commerce secretary is the banking director, he has no authority to obtain information pursuant to law, unless a trial court orders it on the grounds

that there are no other means of obtaining the information required by the banking director.

"The banks therefore maintain that they are not obligated to divulge such information to the banking director. The banks also claim that 4CMC 6513(a) and (c) does not obligate them to transfer the funds as the law states that the transfer of funds from qualifying dormant accounts is only voluntary as the 'bank may transfer' such balances of dormant accounts," he said.

To clarify the technical lan-

guage in existing statutes, Conner introduced House Bill 17-133 to require banks to provide information on dormant accounts to the banking director and to transfer such funds to the CNMI Treasury as required by law.

Under HB 17-133, if a savings account is inactive for 10 years and the passbook has not been presented for the posting of earned interest during the period, a bank "shall" transfer the balance of the account to the Commonwealth Treasurer for the account of the depositor.

The current statute uses the word "may" instead of "shall" in this provision of the law.

Conner's proposal also requires the bank to transfer the balance of a checking account that is inactive for two years and the depositor cannot be located.

HB 17-133 also requires banks to transfer to the Commonwealth Treasury the balance of unidentified deposits or other funds for three years, the owner of which cannot be determined by the bank.

If a bank holds exchanges,

bank drafts, cashiers checks or drafts that have not been presented for payment for 10 years, a bank "shall," if the owner cannot be located, transfer the balance of such account to the Treasury for the account of the owner in the event the owner is located at a later date.

Conner's bill also states that if a bank holds unidentified loan payments for three years, a bank "shall" transfer the balances of the account to the Treasury for the account of the payor, in the event such payor is later determined.

Fifth year for Tinian Donation Center's Christmas Giveaway

For the fifth consecutive year, maia will provide gifts for children at her Helping-Hands Books & Donation Center on Tinian. Intended to help the island's most in-need parents who can't afford to buy much for their little ones, toys and games donated by local businesses and individuals will brighten the holiday for them again, according to the lady who founded the year-round center and has been running it out of her home since shortly after she arrived in CNMI just before Christmas of 1995.

Still in the duplex behind the Mayor's Office after more than three years, despite some temporary enforced closings and almost-closings, the center has been able to continue providing clothing, shoes, household items, books and school supplies to all on Tinian, thanks to the help of maia's landlord, Edward Villagomez and her project's long-time benefactor, Connie Manglona.

"There wouldn't be a donation center if it weren't for this generous couple," maia said. "They've been providing a rent-free building for the center for the past four years, since despite my many pleas for official support the local

officials have never recognized the center's existence publicly. In fact, the current mayor hasn't even bothered to step out his back door to see the place where his people are helping each other."

Starting Sunday, Dec. 12, and every day until Christmas Eve, the Donation Center will be open for all in-need parents to come and choose a gift for each child in the family, from 9am to 1pm and from 3pm to 6pm. If some need to come before or after those hours, maia will be happy to make special arrangements, she said, if they call her at 433-9993.

"I'm sad that this year there will be more need than ever for this, due to all the layoffs," maia said, "but I'm hoping that local businesses and those individuals who can afford it will help me to make it a Merry Christmas, at least for our island's children."

maia badly needs more gift items and asks that anyone who can donate new or like-new toys and games to call or email her to arrange for pickup or delivery.

Contact maia at maia-3maia@hotmail.com or 433-9993, or Connie Manglona at 287-3285. (PR)

MLSC to host 'Immigration Law & Crimes Conference'

The Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be hosting an "Immigration Law and Crimes Conference" on Dec. 8-9, 2010, from 8am to 5pm, at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club on, Saipan.

The training will be conducted by Evangeline Abriel (Santa Clara University School of Law) and Lauren Gilbert (St. Thomas University School of Law). It is based on a training by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., and will have relevant clinic materials available at a nominal cost of copying/reproduction.

Subjects covered include: crime-based inadmissibility and deportability; waivers; representation strategies; and practice pointers for representing an immigrant with a conviction or a pending criminal charge. The trainers will discuss the impact of domestic violence and DUIs, as well as aggravated felonies and crimes of moral turpitude.

The trainers will present an overview of removal proceedings and rights in removal, and relief from removal for clients with crime issues. The trainers will also include a brief discussion on T and U Visas and VAWA. One hour is devoted to ethical issues as well.

The seminar will cost \$75 both days or \$50 for one day. Space is limited to 75 participants. CLE available: 13 hours (6.5 hours/day).

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The training is now open to non-lawyers. To reserve a place at the conference, fill out the registration form and return to MLSC in person or by mail [Box 500826, Saipan], fax [670-235-6101] or e-mail attachment [janemack@mlscnet.org]. Payment in advance of the conference is preferred to ensure smooth registration at the door. For more information, call Polly Anne at 234-7729. (PR)

Brilliant Star to host 6th Holiday Bazaar this weekend

The 6th Annual Holiday Bazaar, organized by Brilliant Star School, will once again open the holiday season this year. This event will be held Sunday, Dec. 5, from 9am to 5pm at the Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

This is an opportunity for artists and other vendors to showcase their arts, and for island residents and visitors to get an early start on buying unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays. The day-long event is also graced by performances throughout the day by various community cultural and arts groups, as well as raffles with prizes generously donated by community businesses.

"We're looking forward to another year of showcasing our island's arts, crafts and

gifts. We still have a couple of tables available for any interested artists or vendors," said Carol Auther, one of the event organizers. Interested vendors may contact the school at 323-STAR (323-7827).

In the past, shoppers have commented on the convenience and comfort of finding such a variety of island gifts in a single place ahead of the holidays. The Holiday Bazaar has been likened to a mini Flame Tree Arts Festival with air-conditioning. Some of the art pieces shoppers can expect to find this year include the ceramics of Ben Wood of Saipan Southern High School, photographs by Jack Hardy, the artwork of Joe Weaver, Monika's Gallery items, handmade jewelry

of artists Kathryn Fuller, Nava Khorram, Kim Peterson, Jill Vanderkin and Leila Staffler, the island jams of DC Revilla, island crafts and jewelry of Tokie Mojica, and much more.

The event will include a crafts area for children, a bouncy tent and entertainment throughout the day from local performers. This year, performers will include DoReMi School of Music, Saipan Southern Manta Ray Band, Larry Lee's Ukelele Band, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Keynotes School of Music and Angel's International School of Dance.

Raffle prizes have been donated through the generosity of various island businesses, and this year the lucky winners can expect to take home some beau-

tiful handmade jewelry, local artwork, Marianas coffee, gift certificates from local hotels and stores, and much more. Drawings will be held hourly.

"We look forward to once again hosting this event at the Multipurpose Center," said Lina Villagomez, a member of the organizing committee. "We expect a vibrant crowd from our school community and island-wide because this event provides quality shopping and enthusiastic holiday spirit."

Bento box lunches, snacks and drinks will be available for purchase at this all-day event.

"We look forward to welcoming the community, once again, to this wonderful event which opens the holiday season on Saipan," said Auther. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Workshop on tax form W-2CM

This is to advise all employers that the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2010 and other 2010 year end filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 10, 2010. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Joten Dandan Commercial Center, MPLC conference room. Businesses, employers and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Confirm your attendance by calling the administration office of Rev & Tax at 664-1000 or fax at 664-1015. (PR)

Bordallo reacts to federal workers' wage freeze

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued yesterday the following statement in response to President Obama's proposal to freeze federal wages for two years: "President Obama's proposal to freeze wages for federal civil servants nationwide for two years is one of the initiatives the Congress will consider as we focus on our nation's budget deficit. It is important that we ensure a balance between fiscal discipline and the need to retain a quality federal

workforce. Although federal workers may feel singled out by this proposal, I believe that more budget cuts are forthcoming, and the President's concept of shared sacrifice will be more clearly understood when he delivers his Fiscal Year 2012 budget to Congress." (PR)

Rota waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Rota and Mañagaha Island's recreational beaches and storm drainage this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all sampled beach sites a green flag. The division analyzed a total of 12 samples from Rota this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Quiz Night 2010 on Friday

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be hosting the "Quiz Night 2010" on Friday, Dec. 3, 2010, to raise awareness of autism and raise funds for the Society.

Quiz Night is a fundraising event where teams of 7 (5 people and 2 substitutes) compete in a fun trivia-based game. If you don't have a team, we will be able to assemble a team for you at the event.

The event will take place at the Saipan World Resort, from 6pm to 10pm. It will cost \$100 per team of 5 (with 2 alternates) or \$15 per person. Buffet is included!

To purchase a ticket, donate or sponsor, contact any of the following:

- ASCNMI - 235-7273 or as_cnm@gmail.com
- Barbara Merfalen - 989-2627
- Larrisa Larson - 287-4899
- Tom Thornburgh - 287-9205
- Jan Reyes - 287-8350

SHRM presents 'The CNMI Prevailing Wage System'

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be hosting a special half-day membership meeting on "The CNMI Prevailing Wage System" today, Dec. 2, 2010. The speakers will be William Rabung of the U. S. Department of Labor's Employment Training Administration (Washington D.C.) via live video teleconference, and Gary Hiles of the Guam Department of Labor.

The lunch meeting will be held at Northern Marianas College in room D-1 (across the NMC Bookstore) on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, from 8:30am – 11:30am. The seminar includes breakfast and refreshments and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly

DLG Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. (PR)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy, happy birthday greetings go out to Jessica Barcinas Taylor who is celebrating her birthday today, Dec. 2! May you have a gloriously fabulous day and may all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! Much love coming from Tony, your family, and all your crazy friends who love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 1st birthday to Napu Anthony Matagolai Blas aka "Katdu"! Here's to wishing you good health and happiness today, tomorrow, and always! We love you! From your 670 familia!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

2 million lose jobless benefits as holidays arrive

By TOM BREEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extended unemployment benefits for nearly 2 million Americans begin to run out Wednesday, cutting off a steady stream of income and guaranteeing a dismal holiday season for people already struggling with bills they cannot pay.

Unless Congress changes its mind, benefits that had been extended up to 99 weeks will end this month.

That means Christmas is out of the question for Wayne Pittman, 46, of Lawrenceville, Ga., and his wife and 9-year-old son. The carpenter was working up to 80 hours a week at the beginning of the decade, but saw that gradually drop to 15 hours before it dried up completely. His last \$297 check will go to necessities, not presents.

"I have a little boy, and that's kind of hard to explain to him," Pittman said.

The average weekly unemployment benefit in the U.S. is \$302.90, though it varies widely depending on how states calculate the payment. Because of supplemental state programs and other factors, it's hard to know for sure who will lose their benefits at any given time. But the Labor Department estimates that, without a Congress-approved extension, about 2 million people will be cut off by Christmas.

Congressional opponents of extending the benefits beyond this month say fiscal responsibility should come first. Republicans in the House and Senate, along with a handful of conservative



Wayne Pittman, 46, sits in his Lawrenceville, Ga., home looking over unemployment papers as his extended benefits are set to expire unless Congress passes a vote to extend them Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010.

Democrats, say they're open to extending benefits, but not if it means adding to the \$13.8 trillion national debt.

Even if Congress does lengthen benefits, cash assistance is at best a stopgap measure, said Carol Hardison, executive director of Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte, N.C., which has seen 20,000 new clients since the Great Recession started in December 2007.

"We're going to have to have a new conversation with the people who are still suffering, about the potentially drastic changes they're going to have

to make to stay out of the homeless shelter," she said.

Forget Christmas presents. What the so-called "99ers" want most of all is what remains elusive in the worst economy in generations: a job.

"I am not searching for a job, I am begging for one," said Felicia Robbins, 30, as she prepared to move out of a homeless shelter in Pensacola, Fla., where she and her five children have been living. She is using the last of her cash reserves, about \$500, to move into a small, unfurnished rental home.

Robbins lost her job as a juvenile justice worker in 2009 and her last \$235 unemployment check will arrive Dec. 13. Her 10-year-old car isn't running, and she walks each day to the local unemployment office to look for work.

Jeanne Reinman, 61, of Greenville, S.C., still has her house, but even that comes with a downside.

After losing her computer design job a year and a half ago, Reinman scraped by with her savings and a weekly \$351 unemployment check. When her nest egg vanished in July, she started using her unemployment to pay off her mortgage and stopped paying her credit card bills. She recently informed a creditor she couldn't make payments on a loan because her benefits were ending.

"I'm more concerned about trying to hang onto my house than paying you," she told the creditor.

Ninety-nine weeks may seem like a long time to find a job. But even as the economy grows, jobs that vanished in the Great Recession have not returned. The private sector added about 159,000 jobs in October—half as many as needed to reduce the unemployment rate of 9.6 percent, which the Federal Reserve expects will hover around 9 percent for all of next year.

"I apply for at least two jobs a day," said Silvia Lewis, of Nashville, Tenn., who's also drained her 401(k) and most of her other savings. "The constant thing that I hear, and a lot of my friends are in the same boat, is that you're overqualified."

JoAnn Sampson of Charlotte hears the same thing. A former cart driver at U.S. Airways, she and her husband are both facing the end of unemployment benefits, and she can't get so much as an entry-level job.

"When you try to apply for retail or fast food, they say 'You're overqualified,' they say 'We don't pay that much money,' they say 'You don't want this job,'" she said.

Sampson counts her blessings: At least her two children, a teenager and a college student, are too old to expect much from Christmas this year.

Shawn Slonsky's three children aren't expecting much either. The 44-year-old union electrician in northeast Ohio won't be able to afford presents or even a Christmas tree.

His sons and daughter haven't bothered to send him holiday wish lists with the latest gizmos and gadgets.

Things used to be different. Before work dried up, Slonsky earned about \$100,000 a year and he and his wife lived in a three-bedroom house where deer meandered through the backyard. For Christmas, he bought his aspiring doctor daughter medical books, a guitar, a unicycle.

Then he and his wife lost their jobs. Their house went into foreclosure and they had to move in with his 73-year-old father.

Now, Slonsky is dreading the holidays as he tries to stretch his last unemployment check to cover child support, gas, groceries and utilities.

Optimism for '11 pushes consumer confidence higher

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans' confidence in the economy rose to a five-month high in November, showing increased optimism for the first half of next year.

The report offered some comfort to the nation's retailers during the holiday shopping season, but shoppers still remain downbeat as they grapple with a high unemployment rate. Moreover, the latest report on housing, released Tuesday, showed that home prices weakened in September.

The Conference Board, a private research group based in New York, said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence

Index rose to 54.1 in November, up from a revised 49.9 in October.

The November reading is the highest since June, when the index stood at 54.3 just as the economy's recovery started to lose momentum. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected 52.0.

It takes a level of 90 to indicate a healthy economy, which hasn't been approached since the recession began in December 2007.

One component of the index, how Americans feel now about the economy, rose to 24.0, up from 23.5. The other gauge, which measures how

American feel about the economy over the next six months, rose to 74.2, up from 67.5 last month.

"Consumer confidence is now at its highest level in five months, a welcome sign as we enter the holiday season," Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center, said in a statement. "Consumers' assessment of the current state of the economy and job market, while only slightly better than last month, suggests the economy is still expanding, albeit slowly. Hopefully, the improvement in consumers' mood will continue in the months ahead."

Fiji Water reverses plans to quit Fiji Islands

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Fiji Water reopened its operations in the South Pacific nation of Fiji on Wednesday—just two days after closing its bottling plant and laying off 400 workers in a row over a major government tax increase.

The U.S.-owned company said after meeting with Fiji's leaders it has agreed to "comply" with the hefty tax hike imposed on it by Fiji's military-led regime.

The prime minister, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, said earlier he was ready to call tenders from international groups interested in taking over the artesian water bores that Fiji Water uses to extract one of the world's most popular bottled water brands.

On Monday the company, owned by California entrepreneurs Lynda and Stewart Resnick, said it was closing its facility in Fiji, canceling orders from

suppliers and putting on hold several construction contracts in the country.

After its lawyers met Tuesday with Bainimarama and Fiji's Attorney General, Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum, the company said it a short statement that "Fiji Water will reopen its bottling plant, effective Wednesday morning, Dec. 1, at its regular start up time of 8 a.m. Through our discussions, we have also agreed to comply with Fiji's new water tax law."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Motorola to break into 2 on Jan. 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Motorola Inc. will split into two companies effective Jan. 4, finalizing the breakup of one of the founders of the U.S. electronics industry. Motorola is splitting its consumer-oriented side, which makes cell phones and cable set-top boxes, from the side that sells police radios and barcode scanners to government and corporate customers. Shareholders of record on Dec. 21 will receive shares in both the consumer business, Motorola Mobility, and the professional business, Motorola Solutions.

Stocks fall as euro concerns continue

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks ended November on a down note Tuesday, notching their first monthly losses since August. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 46 points. It had been down as many as 110 points earlier in the day. The index pared most of its losses after President Barack Obama and Republican lawmakers promised to seek a compromise before the end

of the year on extending Bush-era tax cuts. Extending the cuts would motivate investors to hold stocks since they wouldn't be subject to higher capital gains taxes next year. It would also encourage companies to continue paying dividends, which are taxed at a more favorable rate.

Surveys show China manufacturing up in November

SHANGHAI (AP)—China's manufacturing boom accelerated in November, supported by stable demand and rising purchasing prices, according to surveys released Wednesday. The state-affiliated China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said Wednesday that its purchasing managers index, or PMI, rose to 55.2 last month from 54.7 in October and 53.8 in September. Monthly readings have stayed above 50, the benchmark for expansion, for 21 straight months, despite a slight slowing in China's economic growth in the three months ending in September to 9.6 percent from a post-crisis peak of 11.9 percent in the first quarter of this year.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

11,006.00
-46.47
-0.42%

S&P

1,180.55
-7.21
-0.61%

NASDAQ

2,498.23
-26.99
-1.07%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0384
British Pound	0.6423
Canadian Dollar	1.0223
Chinese Yuan	6.6645
Euro	0.7668

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7670
Indian Rupee	45.6650
Indonesian Rupiah	9,017.0
Japanese Yen	83.5450
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1551
New Zealand Dollar	1.3389

Philippine Peso	43.7750
Singapore Dollar	1.3158
South Korean Won	1,157.3
Swiss Franc	1.0029
Taiwan Dollar	30.4210
Thailand Baht	30.0600

Nation

US cuts access to files as Interpol seeks Assange

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government scrambled Tuesday to prevent future spills of U.S. secrets like the embarrassing WikiLeaks' disclosures, while officials pondered possible criminal prosecutions and Interpol in Europe sent out a "red notice" for nations to be on the lookout for the website's founder.

Interpol placed Julian Assange on its most-wanted list after Sweden issued an arrest warrant against him as part of a drawn-out rape probe—involving allegations Assange has denied. The Interpol alert is likely to make international travel more difficult for Assange, whose whereabouts are publicly unknown.

In Washington, the State Department severed its computer files from the government's classified network, officials said, as U.S. and world leaders tried to clean up from the leak that sent America's sensitive documents onto computer screens around the globe.

By temporarily pulling the plug, the U.S. significantly reduced the number of government employees who can read important diplomatic messages. It was an extraordinary hunkering down, prompted by the disclosure of hundreds of thousands of those messages this week by WikiLeaks, the self-styled whistleblower organization.

The documents revealed that the U.S. is still confounded about North Korea's nuclear military ambitions, that Iran is believed to have received advanced missiles capable of targeting West-



ern Europe and—perhaps most damaging to the U.S.—that the State Department asked its diplomats to collect DNA samples and other personal information about foreign leaders.

While Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, taunted the U.S. from afar on Tuesday, lawyers from across the government were investigating whether it could prosecute him for espionage, a senior defense official said. The official, not authorized to comment publicly, spoke only on condition of anonymity.

There have been suggestions that Assange or others involved in the leaks could be prosecuted under the Espionage Act, but the question could be complicated. Who and what is he and his website? He has portrayed himself as a crusading journalist, and the Justice Department has steered clear of prosecuting

journalists for publishing leaked secrets.

Meanwhile, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley sought to reassure the world that U.S. diplomats were not spies, even as he sidestepped questions about why they were asked to provide DNA samples, iris scans, credit card numbers, fingerprints and other deeply personal information about leaders at the United Nations and in foreign capitals.

Diplomats in the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion, for instance, were asked in a secret March 2008 cable to provide "biometric data, to include fingerprints, facial images, iris scans, and DNA" for numerous prominent politicians. They were also asked to send "identities information" on terrorist suspects, including "fingerprints, arrest photos, DNA and iris scans."

In Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo the requests included information about political, military and intelligence leaders.

"Data should include e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers, fingerprints, facial images, DNA, and iris scans," the cable said.

Every year, the intelligence community asks the State Department for help collecting routine information such as biographical data and other "open source" data. DNA, fingerprint and other information was included in the request because, in some countries, foreigners must provide that information to the U.S. before entering an embassy or military base, a U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters.

The possibility that American

diplomats pressed for more than "open source" information has drawn criticism at the U.N. and in other diplomatic circles over whether U.S. information-gathering blurred the line between diplomacy and espionage.

"What worries me is the mixing of diplomatic tasks with downright espionage. You cross a border ... if diplomats are encouraged to gather personal information about some people," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said.

Crowley said a few diplomatic cables don't change the role of U.S. diplomats.

"Our diplomats are diplomats. Our diplomats are not intelligence assets," he repeatedly told reporters. "They can collect information that is useful, we share it across the government."

World leaders, meanwhile, were fielding questions about candid U.S. assessments of their countries.

In Kenya, the government was outraged by a leaked cable, published by the German magazine Der Spiegel, in which Kenya is described as a "swamp of flourishing corruption." Kenya's government spokesman called the cable "totally malicious" and said the State Department called to apologize.

In Brazil, officials declined to answer questions about U.S. cables that characterized the South American country as privately cooperative in the war against terrorism, even as it publicly denies terrorist threats domestically.

All US-bound airlines to get info for watch lists

WASHINGTON (AP)—All 197 airlines that fly to the U.S. are now collecting names, genders and birth dates of passengers so the government can check them against terror watch lists before they fly, the Obama administration announced Tuesday.

Getting all air carriers that travel to or through the U.S. to provide this information marks a milestone in the government's counterterrorism efforts and completes one of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. The program, called Secure Flight, has been delayed for years because of privacy concerns and went through three versions before it was approved. It's designed to give U.S. authorities more time to identify and remove suspected terrorists from flights and reduce instances when passengers are mistaken for people on terror watch lists.

Misidentification of passengers has been one of the biggest inconveniences in post-Sept. 11 air travel, and widely known for putting thousands of innocent travelers and well-known figures like former Sen. Ted Kennedy, through extensive search-

ing and questioning before they were allowed to fly.

Previously, airlines have been responsible for checking the passenger lists against terror watch lists. But the airlines did not have any information other than a name. Now the screening is done by the Transportation Security Administration. The more information available about a passenger, the less likely a passenger will be mistaken for someone on a watch list. When someone makes a flight reservation, that information goes to the Secure Flight database within seconds, TSA Administrator John Pistole said.

Compliance with the program has been phased in over the past year, and many travelers have already been supplying their gender, birth date and full name as it appears on their government identification when they purchase their tickets. Pistole said it's too early to tell if there have been fewer instances of mistaken identities now that the new system is in place. "It's just still too early to say," he said. "If six months from now we haven't seen a reduction, then that will concern me."

ACROSS THE NATION

Cops: Grandma threw child to her death at Va. mall

McLEAN, Va. (AP)—A Virginia toddler was walking out of a shopping mall with relatives when her grandmother suddenly flung her over a railing, sending the girl on a fatal plunge to the pavement several stories below, police said Tuesday. Carmela Dela Rosa, 50, of Fairfax was arrested and charged with murder, said prosecutor Ian Rodway. Authorities said interviews with witnesses and Dela Rosa led them to the conclusion that the girl's fall Monday night was no accident, but they couldn't yet explain why the grandmother threw her. The 2 1/2-year-old child, Angelyn Ogdod, died in a hospital several hours later. She fell from a walkway linking the mall's third floor to the parking garage's sixth floor at Tysons Corner Center in Fairfax, just south of Washington, D.C.

Missing Mich. boys' father charged with kidnapping

MORENCI, Mich. (AP)—The search for three young Michigan brothers darkened Tuesday as authorities warned the public to expect the worst and charged the children's father with their kidnapping. Despite the somber news, a small army of volunteers spent a fourth day scouring corn fields, campgrounds and wooded areas near Morenci, a small community 75 miles southwest of Detroit along the border with Ohio, looking for the smallest scrap of evidence. Searcher Bill Foster said everyone in the town of 2,000 was hoping for a "Christmas miracle" and the safe return of 9-year-old Andrew, 7-year-old Alexander and 5-year-old Tanner Skelton, who were last seen at their father's home on Thanksgiving.

Pa. man gets at least 30 years in rape of girl, 11

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A man charged with brutalizing and repeatedly raping an 11-year-old Philadelphia girl has been sentenced to at least 30 years in prison after trying in vain to retract his guilty plea. A judge in Philadelphia denied a request by 27-year-old Jose Carrasquillo (kairuh-SKEE'-oh) to withdraw the plea Tuesday. A vigilante mob had severely beaten Carrasquillo in June 2009 after recognizing a police sketch of the girl's assailant. He was arrested a few days later after DNA linked him to the attack, which he told police was the result of a drug-fueled rage.

Pentagon leaders say gays won't hurt the military

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gay troops can serve openly in the armed forces without harming the military's ability to fight, the Pentagon's top leaders declared Tuesday, calling for the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" ban to be scrapped and pointing to a new survey to show most troops won't mind.

President Barack Obama, citing the troop poll, urged the Senate to repeal the ban before adjourning in the next few weeks, but there is still no indication GOP objections can be overcome with just a few weeks left in the postelection lame-duck session. Still, the survey did put new pressure on Republican opponents, led by Sen. John McCain, who say efforts to repeal the law are politically motivated and dangerous at a time of two wars.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the ban on openly gay military service "requires people to lie," and he called for quick Senate action.

"We spend a lot of time in the military talking about integrity and honor and values. Telling the truth is a pretty important value in that scale," Gates said as he released the Pentagon study showing that most people currently in

uniform don't care about the ban.

Senate Democrats plan to force a vote in December. Senate Republicans were generally silent following release of the Pentagon recommendations for repealing the ban.

Although historic, Tuesday's recommendation that the military for the first time allow openly gay people came with a caveat that also frustrates many supporters of repeal. Gates wants an indefinite grace period while the Pentagon prepares for the policy change and phases it in.

"It would be unwise to push ahead with full implementation of repeal before more can be done to prepare the force, in particular those ground combat specialties and units, for what could be a disruptive and disorienting change," Gates said.

Critics led by McCain say the Pentagon's report doesn't address risks to morale and fighting mettle. Gates countered: "I obviously have a lot of admiration and respect for Senator McCain, but in this respect I think that he's mistaken."

Obama has called it a top priority to repeal the 1993 law that bans openly gay service. But gay

rights groups have complained that he and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have done too little to see it through, focusing their postelection efforts instead on tax cuts and a nuclear arms treaty with Russia before Republicans gain congressional strength when lawmakers return in January.

In the report, the study's co-chairs, Pentagon General Counsel Jeh Johnson and Army Gen. Carter Ham, wrote, "We are both convinced that our military can do this, even during this time of war."

Gates said he didn't think the Pentagon would have to rewrite its regulations on housing, benefits or fraternization to accommodate gays if they were allowed to serve openly.

A defense policy bill that would overturn the law—pending certification by the Pentagon and the president that doing so wouldn't hurt the military's ability to fight—has languished in the Senate since it passed the House this spring.

In the meantime, a federal judge ordered the Pentagon to stop enforcing the law because it was unconstitutional. The Obama administration is appealing that decision.

Asia

China pushes for talks on NKorea tensions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States and South Korea were finishing up war maneuvers Wednesday aimed at North Korea after a deadly attack and discussing whether to hold more, as China tried to restart the aid-for-nuclear-disarmament talks coveted by the North.

Beijing is pressing for an emergency meeting in coming days to discuss ways to ease tensions embroiling the region after the North Korean artillery attack on a front-line island that killed four South Koreans and wounded 18 others on Nov. 23. But Washington, Tokyo and Seoul are wary of talking with the North.

Beijing wants talks among the six nations who have negotiated over North Korea's nuclear program—the two Koreas, China, Russia, Japan and the United States. After walking away from the six-nation talks in April 2009, Pyongyang has shown it is now eager to restart them to gain much-needed fuel oil and aid in exchange for nuclear disarmament.

Seoul has reacted coolly, saying North Korea must show real commitment to disarm and noting that the North has gone in the wrong direction with its



revelation late last month of a new uranium enrichment facility that would give North Korea a second way to make nuclear bombs.

South Korea's drills with the U.S. involving a nuclear-powered supercarrier in western waters south of the disputed border were set to end Wednesday. The drills were largely aimed at testing communications systems and didn't have live fire, but

North Korea expressed its fury over them.

A South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff officer said that Seoul and Washington are discussing whether to conduct new joint military drills this month or early next month. The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, citing agency rules, would only say that the drills would take place off South Korea's west coast.

Wikileaks: US worried over Pakistani nuke material

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Once-secret U.S. diplomatic cables have revealed concerns by Western governments that Islamist militants might get access to Pakistani nuclear material and American skepticism that Islamabad will sever ties to Taliban factions fighting in Afghanistan.

They also detail America's private doubts over the weak, unpopular civilian government and portray the country's army chief as an important behind-the-scenes player who once talked about ousting President Asif Ali Zardari, who himself is said to have expressed concern the military might "take me out."

The revelations were published Tuesday by newspapers working together with whistleblower WikiLeaks, which obtained more than 250,000 leaked American diplomatic files from missions around the world.

U.S. and Western officials have expressed concern over Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, but

in public have generally said they believed it was safe.

In a Feb. 4, 2009, cable, then-U.S. Ambassador Anne Patterson wrote that "our major concern is not having an Islamic militant steal an entire weapon but rather the chance someone working in GOP (government of Pakistan) facilities could gradually smuggle enough material out to eventually make a weapon," according to The New York Times.

Britain's the Guardian newspaper reported that Russian and British officials shared the same concern.

The papers reported that in 2007 Pakistan had agreed "in principle" to an operation to remove highly enriched uranium from a Pakistani nuclear reactor, but it was never carried because of domestic opposition. Pakistan said Monday it refused the operation because its own nuclear security would prevent the material from getting into the wrong hands.

The cables also provide insight into American views on Pakistan's efforts to fight extremists.

The United States is pushing Pakistan to take action against insurgents in the northwest who are behind attacks in Afghanistan. But Islamabad has resisted because it views the groups as potential assets against the influence of archenemy India in Afghanistan once the Americans withdraw.

In one cable, Patterson said she was skeptical that Pakistan would abandon the militants. "There is no chance ... for abandoning support for these groups, which it sees as an important part of its national security apparatus against India," she wrote.

Zardari was elected after the death of his wife, Benazir Bhutto, in a suicide blast in 2008, but he has been hounded by the opposition, the media and the army, which remains the real power center in the country.

Sri Lankan war zone declared wildlife sanctuary

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's government has declared the former Tamil rebels' jungle stronghold a wildlife sanctuary. A government statement says more than 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares) of the former war zone in northern Mullaitivu district will be used for wildlife conservation. The statement says the sanctuary will help elephants that are increasingly encroached upon by people. Some 228 wild elephants were killed by human beings last year, while about 50 people died in confrontations with the animals.

World

Iran's military looks to the sky as new priority

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—In military maneuvers and air shows, Iran has been proudly touting advances in its air forces and defenses, including radar systems, anti-aircraft batteries and new attack and reconnaissance drones.

It's a sign of a new priority for Iran's military—trying to quickly bolster its ability to patrol its skies in the belief that U.S. or Israeli warplanes or missiles could strike its nuclear facilities.

But Iran's highly publicized unveilings of air systems in recent months—including an armed drone dubbed the "ambassador of death"—have not yet translated into any significant tactical gains for the Islamic Republic, defense analysts say.

For the most part, Iran's air attack capabilities still depend heavily on domestically modified versions of long-outdated warplanes, including former Soviet MiGs and American F14A Tomcats from the 1970s, and its anti-aircraft batteries and drones remain untested, the analysts say.

"What we see from Iran is a lot of show and a lot of

talk, but nothing that comes close to being a game changer," said John Pike, director of the security analyst group globalsecurity.org based in Alexandria, Virginia.

Still, Iran clearly is trying to close security gaps around nuclear sites—including Iran's



Ahmadinejad

main uranium enrichment lab—and blunt the edge that the Pentagon and Israel gain from drone technology. Iranian commanders now view drones as a critical tool, including to monitor the U.S. 5th Fleet based across the Gulf in Bahrain.

The Americans have confirmed they've shot down an unspecified number of Iranian

surveillance drones over Iraq. Iran, meanwhile, has boasted that its drones have taken reconnaissance photos of U.S. warships in the Gulf.

Iran's other military emphasis has been improving its long-range missile program. Washington believes Iran may have obtained advanced missiles from North Korea, known as BM-25, which could extend the strike range for Iran from the known 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) to up to 2,400 miles (4,000 kilometers), according to State Department cables obtained by the website WikiLeaks and made public Sunday. Such missiles could hit well beyond Iran's top regional enemy Israel and into Europe or Russia.

But the Iranian effort to build up its air power is mostly a homegrown project, tweaking older technology or using domestic know-how to build its first generations of drone spy and attack aircraft. It comes at a time when its rivals across the Gulf, led by Saudi Arabia, are on buying sprees to modernize and expand their own air power.

Leaked documents discuss Cuban spies, US concerns

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Cuban intelligence agents have deep involvement in Venezuela and enjoy direct access to President Hugo Chavez, the U.S. Embassy said in a 2006 diplomatic cable that was classified as secret.

The document was among several posted online Tuesday by the newspaper El Pais of Spain as a growing list of sensitive U.S. government messages were released by WikiLeaks.

The Jan. 30, 2006, cable from then-U.S. Ambassador William Brownfield said that "Cuban intelligence officers have direct access to Chavez and frequently provide him with intelligence reporting unvetted by Venezuelan officers."

Similar claims have been raised previously by Chavez's critics, but U.S. officials have not publicly aired such concerns.

"The impact of Cuban involvement in Venezuelan intelligence could impact U.S. interests directly," the report said. "Venezuelan intelligence services are among the most hostile towards the United States in the hemisphere, but they lack the expertise that Cuban services can provide. Cuban intelligence routinely provides the (Venezuelan government) intelligence reports about the activities" of U.S. government officials.

The embassy cable also said Venezuela's DISIP domestic spy agency "may be taking advice from Cuban intelligence

on the formation of a new intelligence service." The DISIP has since been replaced by the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service, named after independence hero Simon Bolivar—the inspiration of Chavez's socialist-inspired Bolivarian Revolution movement.

"Cuban intelligence officers train Venezuelans both in Cuba and in Venezuela, providing both political indoctrination and operational instruction," the report said, without citing sources. The cable said U.S. officials believed Cubans were training and advising Chavez's military security detail, but said American diplomats at the time had "no credible reports of extensive Cuban involvement in the Venezuelan military."

WORLD BRIEFS

Post-election violence reported in Haitian town

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Protesters demanding cancellation of Haiti's weekend presidential election clashed with U.N. peacekeepers Tuesday, the United Nations mission and Haitian radio reported. Radio Kisekya said at least 15 people had been injured in two days of demonstrations north of the capital. U.N. police sent reinforcements Tuesday but had no reports of injuries, police spokesman Jean-Francois Vezina said. Rampant disorganization and allegations of fraud hang over Sunday's critical vote for president, a third of the Senate and all of the lower house.

Torrential rains leave 21 dead in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Flooding and landslides unleashed by torrential rains have killed at least 21 people in Venezuela, forced

thousands from their homes and idled an oil refinery. The death toll rose on Tuesday as authorities confirmed eight additional deaths in Caracas and nearby states. Vice President Elias Jaua said there had been 21 deaths nationwide since Thursday and about 5,600 people fled their homes.

Ethnic group targeted after Guinea election

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—A puddle of blood runs down a sloping road here where children once raced "cars," towing boxes of sardines on strings. It was so large that neighbors tried to cover it with sand. The stain marked the spot where a young man from the Peul ethnic group was shot dead by police of another ethnicity. It also marks how this African country of 10 million which was once held up as a model of ethnic tolerance has taken a turn toward hate.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Clinton seeks more European help in Afghanistan

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on a European security organization Wednesday to play a bigger role in helping stabilize Afghanistan and to do more to strengthen the voice of human rights groups worldwide. In the aftermath of the leak of huge numbers of sensitive U.S. diplomatic cables by the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy website, Clinton also urged a greater commitment to press freedom, but she made no overt reference to the embarrassing episode.

Focus

WikiLeaks: Espionage? Journalism? Something else?

By PETE YOST
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's decisions about whether or how to bring criminal charges against participants in the WikiLeaks disclosures are complicated by the very newness of Julian Assange's Internet-based outfit: Is it journalism or espionage or something in between?

Justice, State and Defense Department lawyers are discussing whether it might be possible to prosecute the WikiLeaks founder and others under the Espionage Act, a senior defense official said Tuesday.

They are debating whether the Espionage Act applies, and to whom, according to this official, who spoke anonymously to discuss an ongoing criminal investigation. Other charges also might be possible, including theft of government property or receipt of stolen government property.

Rep. Peter King of New York called for Assange to be charged under the Espionage Act and asked whether WikiLeaks can be designated a terrorist organization.

But Assange has portrayed himself as a crusading journalist: He told ABC News by e-mail that his latest batch of State Department documents would expose "lying, corrupt and murderous leadership from Bahrain to Brazil." He told *Time* magazine he targets only "organizations that use secrecy to conceal unjust behavior."

Longtime Washington lawyer Plato Cacheris, who represented CIA official Aldrich Ames and other espionage defendants, said Tuesday that Assange could argue he is protected by the Constitution's First Amendment, a freedom of the press defense. "That would be one, certainly," Cacheris said.

Constrained by the First Amendment's free press guarantees, the Justice Department has steered clear of prosecuting journalists for publishing leaked secrets. Leakers have occasionally been prosecuted, usually govern-

ment workers charged under easier-to-prove statutes criminalizing the mishandling of classified documents.

But two leakers faced Espionage Act charges, with mixed results.

The last leak that approached the size of the WikiLeaks releases was the Pentagon Papers during the Nixon administration.

The Supreme Court slapped down President Richard Nixon's effort to stop newspapers from publishing those papers. But the leaker, ex-Pentagon analyst Daniel Ellsberg, was charged under the Espionage Act with unauthorized possession and theft of the papers.

A federal judge threw out the charges because of government misconduct including burglary of Ellsberg's psychiatrist's files by the White House "plumbers" unit.

The Reagan administration had more success against Samuel Loring Morison, a civilian intelligence analyst for the Navy and grandson of a famous U.S. historian. Morison was convicted under the Espionage Act and of theft of government property for supplying a British publication, *Jane's Defence Weekly*, with a U.S. satellite photo of a Russian aircraft carrier under construction in a Black Sea port. Dozens of news organizations filed friend-of-the-court briefs supporting Morison because he was a \$5,000-a-year part-time editor with *Jane's* sister publication and thus arguably a journalist.

But WikiLeaks has entered a space where no journalist has gone before. News organizations have often sought information, including government

secrets, for specific stories and printed secrets that government workers delivered to them, but none has matched Assange's open worldwide invitation to send him any secret or confidential information a source can lay hands on.

Is WikiLeaks the leaker or merely the publisher?

"The courts have been somewhat reluctant to draw a line of demarcation between what we call mainstream media and everyone else," said Washington attorney Stan Brand. "If these people are publishing and exercising First Amendment rights, I don't know why they're less entitled to their First Amendment rights to publish."

But at a news conference Monday, Attorney General Eric Holder contrasted WikiLeaks with traditional news organizations, which he said acted responsibly in the matter even though several posted some classified material. Some news organizations consulted with the government in advance to avoid printing harmful material; Assange has claimed his efforts to do likewise were rebuffed.

"One can compare the way in which the various news organizations that have been involved in this have acted as opposed to the way in which WikiLeaks has," said Holder.

Some see openings for the government.

Assange "has gone a long way down the road of talking himself into a possible violation of the Espionage Act," First Amendment lawyer Floyd Abrams said on National Public Radio, noting that Assange has said leaks could bring down a U.S. administration.

Washington lawyer Bob Bittman expressed surprise the Justice Depart-



A news stand displaying newspapers, some carrying the story on WikiLeaks' release of classified U.S. State Department documents, at a newsagent in central London, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010.

ment has not already charged Assange under the Espionage Act and with theft of government property over his earlier release of classified documents about U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bittman said it was widely believed those disclosures harmed U.S. national security, in particular U.S. intelligence sources and methods, meeting the requirement in several sections of the act that there be either intent or reason to believe disclosure could injure the United States.

"These are not easy questions," said Washington lawyer Stephen Ryan, a former assistant U.S. attorney and former Senate Government Affairs Committee general counsel. Ryan said it would be legally respectable to argue Assange is a journalist protected by the First Amendment and never had a duty to protect U.S. secrets.

But Ryan added, "The flip side is whether he could be charged with aiding and abetting or conspiracy with an individual who did have a duty to protect those secrets."

On the question of conspiracy there's a legal difference between being a passive recipient of leaked material and being a prime mover egging on a prospective leaker, legal experts say.

Much could depend on what the investigation uncovers.

Army Pfc. Bradley Manning is being held in a maximum-security military brig in Virginia, charged with leaking video of a 2007 U.S. Apache helicopter attack in Baghdad that killed a Reuters news photographer and his driver. WikiLeaks posted the video on its website in April.

Military investigators say Manning is a person of interest in the leak of nearly 77,000 Afghan war records WikiLeaks published online in July. Though Manning has not been charged in the latest release of internal U.S. government documents, WikiLeaks has hailed him as a hero.

Another obstacle would be getting Assange to the United States. His whereabouts are not publicly known.

In France, Interpol placed Assange on its most-wanted list Tuesday after Sweden issued an arrest warrant against him as part of a drawn-out rape probe—involving allegations he has denied. The Interpol "red notice" is likely to make international travel more difficult for him.

But even if Assange were charged and arrested in a country that has an extradition treaty with the United States, there could be problems getting him here. The Espionage Act carries a maximum penalty of death, and nations with no death penalty often refuse to send defendants here if they face possible execution.

One renowned First Amendment and national security lawyer, Duke law professor emeritus Michael Tigar urged caution.

"The U.S. reaction to all of this is rather overblown," Tigar said. "One should hesitate a long time before bringing a prosecution in a case like this. The First Amendment means that sometimes public expression makes the government squirm. ... That diplomats collect information, and are sometimes brutally candid, comes as no surprise to anybody."

Environment

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

2M acres of threatened private forests now protected

» USDA Forest Service, partnerships conserve private working forests from Hawaii to New Hampshire yielding multiple benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The USDA Forest Service recently reached a milestone of protecting more than 2 million acres of private forests threatened by development. The Forest Service's Northeastern Area helped the agency reach the milestone when the state of Ohio purchased a 15,494-acre property as the new Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest approximately 90 miles south of Columbus.

"With more than half of the country's forests in private ownership, it is vital that we work with landowners to conserve our forests for the benefit of the environment and rural jobs," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Through the success of the Forest Legacy Program, the Forest Service has demonstrated that through partnerships with states, conservation groups, landowners and forest industry, we can protect our forests for future generations."

The milestone was achieved through public-private partnership using federal and leveraged funds of approximately \$1.1 billion through the Forest Legacy program. The Legacy program has leveraged the federal investment of more than 50 percent of project costs. To date, more than \$630 million has been contributed to these efforts through non-federal matching funds.

The Forest Legacy program works with private landowners, states and conservation groups to promote sustainable, working forests. In fiscal year 2010, the program was funded at more than \$79 million to assist landowners across the country to conserve and manage their land while protecting environmentally important landscapes.

Roughly 57 percent of the nation's forests are privately owned yet the country has lost 15 million acres of private working forests in the last 10

years with an additional 22 million acres projected to be at risk in the next decade.

"The Forest Legacy program has protected millions of acres of privately owned forests that could have easily been turned into strip malls and housing developments," said Tom Tidwell, chief of the U.S. Forest Service. "This program operates on a 'willing buyer, willing seller' principle for private landowners to promote environmental, social and economic benefits for all."

Work with hundreds of landowners during the past 20 years has created many forest legacy success stories, some of which include:

■ The Moose Mountain Reservation in New Hampshire, whose wood, water, wildlife, scenic and recreational values will be sustained and managed over the long term thanks to the Forest Legacy Program, the New Hampshire Department of Resources and



The Forest Legacy program works with private landowners, states and conservation groups to promote sustainable, working forests.

Economic Development, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and many others. Moose Mountain has been protected since 2006.

■ The Blonquist family, third generation ranchers, entered into a conservation easement with the Forest Legacy Program that both protects their ranch and allows them to be part of a bigger conservation effort east of Park City. Six Feathers Ranch has been protected since 2005.

■ Wao Kele O'Puna is a 26,000 acre tract that is the last largest remaining expanse of low-land lava rainforest on the Big Island of Hawaii. This property was for many years the focus of struggle for native Hawaiians who sought to protect Wao Kele O'Puna from development so that they might retain access to the site to collect plants for native rituals and to visit burial sites. Wao Kele O'Puna was protected in 2007

and is now managed by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. (USDA)

DO YOUR PART

Little things make all the difference



MCT

There are many charities that will take working pieces and put them to good use such as giving old cell phones to service men and women.

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Most of us have heard about all the big ways we can lead greener lives.

We can do everything from buy a hybrid car to install solar panels on our roofs. However, there are also small ways to Do Your Part everyday that really can make all the difference in the world. Remember, at the core of 'going green' is simply to use less stuff and extend the life of what you already have. And, just because you want to start doing more with less, doesn't mean you can't have fun doing it. I'll share a few of my recent finds.

This year, I was invited to a clothing swap party. Guests brought a minimum number of gently used clothes that they no longer wanted.

Clothes were sorted by type—accessories, boots, dresses, jeans, etc.

No money was exchanged and all the leftover clothes were taken to a battered women's shelter. Sharing fashion and a glass of wine with

friends is fabulous ... and eco-friendly!

Recently, a friend shared her secret to getting magazines she always wanted but didn't want to pay for. She and the neighbors in her cul-de-sac have a magazine swap without ever saying a word. When one is done reading the magazine they subscribe to, they put it in their next-door neighbor's mailbox. That neighbor is free to do anything with it—from clipping out articles to passing it along to neighbor No. 3.

These neighbors are not just saving trees; they're saving money on magazine subscriptions too.

You can also consider creating swap events during your next book club or other regular events you share with friends. I heard about one book club where one month, friends brought along costume jewelry pieces they didn't wear anymore. It was a fun way to socialize before diving into the details of that month's book.

And from looking good to doing good, there are plenty of ways to extend the life with other things you may want to toss in the trash.

Electronics, for instance, usually have plenty of life left even after we've upgraded. There are many charities that will take working pieces and put them to good use such as giving old cell phones to service men and women. We've got a list of those charities at DoYourPart.com/columns.

When you do need to shop for something new, shop smart. Look for items that you can use again or can be turned into something new. I buy greeting cards that actually contain seeds so the person I send it to can eventually plant it in their garden and watch it grow.

Little things really do add up. Whether you are socializing, shopping, or trying to organize your home, look for ways to Do Your Part and go a little greener every day.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Endangered species highlighted in films at free Friday night event

Tomorrow night, First Friday Films will be featuring two great short movies about endangered species starting at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

The event starts with the film *Home for Hawksbill* followed by our second screening: *Fanihi: A Cultural Digest*. Local wildlife biologists and experts Tammy Summers, Julia Boland and Joe Ruak from the Division of Fish and Wildlife will speak before each film. The speakers will answer questions from the audience at the end of the night.

Viewers are encouraged to come early and stay late to help learn more about how

they can help endangered species in the CNMI. There will exhibit from the Micronesia Challenge, a regional effort for more effective conservation, and the Turtle Advocate Guardian Society (TAGS), a group dedicated to helping protect and preserve the local turtle population of Saipan.

Fanihi, a short film shot in the CNMI by Jim Tharp, discusses the complex issue of conserving this important animal. The film examines the ecological role the Fanihi plays on our islands as well as its cultural significance.

Home for Hawksbill, a short film by Jordan Plotsky, tells the inspiring story of how three dis-

tinctly different cultural groups in the Solomon Islands came together to help protect the endangered Hawksbill sea turtle. The film details how these communities went from hunting the turtle to localized extinction to providing a safe haven for the animal that mutually benefits all the groups involved.

For planning purposes, the event will last about 90 minutes, including the time allotted for presentations. "First Friday Films" is free and open to the public. Find more information at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Please subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)

DEQ sets Saturday cleanup at Hidden Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality's monthly cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Hidden Beach in Talafofu.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet the DEQ representative on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, at 8am at the entrance to King Fisher Golf. Come join us and "Pick it Up!"

Volunteers will split into groups and clean North and South Beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

This is a cleanup that should

not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

Life & Style

DONG BEI TREK 11

Blizzard south of Blagoveshchensk

By JAIME R VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

We missed the blizzard that ripped through *Neimonggol* (Inner Mongolia) and the minus 20° C temperature that hit the bears in Blagoveshchensk by the Amur, but not by much. (Happily, there were no berths available on the train to Manzhouli where we wanted to head.) We snapped a quick digital photo outside the Heihe train station prior to our departure but the scene did not improve on the grounds south in Shenyang (see photo) where we presently reside. When the steam radiator in our less than a \$100/month low-income flat broke down, we put on our four-layer street attire (inset) until the utility man came. We received lightning speed service.

Not native to this clime, we tend to be outdoors-shy, thus, spending more time indoors reflecting on recollections and strategizing anticipations. The last time we flexed our *Pinoy* foolish bravura when it comes to weather was January 1976 when we walked out of the Saskatoon Airport in Canada wearing a tropical three-piece suit on minus 40° F temp; easily minus 60° F with the wind factor! Coming from the windy city of Chicago, my barely 3-year-old daughter was quick to hit the snow pile with her mittens and mufflers while Illinois born and bred spouse sauntered regally like she was negotiating a catwalk on the fourth of July. My *dagan* felt more frozen than a San Jose market popsicle but managed to smile away any discomfort!

The 78° to 86° F temperature reading on Saipan that pops up in my laptop have become alluringly tempting and downright irritating each time I glance at it. I had come to *Dong Bei* on a reflective retreat mode, paying more attention to the state of the body and soul rather than seeking comfort from external temperature settings, yet at five years short of seven decades, our rheumatoid arthritic knees and elbows are beginning to call for more attention, while the core immunity of the respiratory system has become susceptible to the common cold. Time to finally sign up for a *man'amko* card.

A 100-room, four-story old folks care hospice in my neighborhood by the Tawan Stupa (pagoda) at the Shi Li Da park (*Gong Yuen*) in Huanggu district barely has any lights on after dark. This spanking new social service care facility for the elderly is underutilized. The ¥1500 it charges per individual with a private room, equivalent to a shade over 2 Franklins,

which includes the room plus communal meals and medical care, might still be on the steep side, compared to the common retirement benefit of \$300 available to about 20 percent of the pertinent population. Currently, a commercial cleaner's entry pay is only ¥1,000. But more significant is the cultural face lost when children consign their elders to be state wards.

With the success of the one-child, one-family practice promoted by Mao's *Zhongguo Gongchandang* (CPC), and the equally successful Deng's economic transformation programs that attracted young agricultural workers away from farms to urban shops and factories, the rural elders of China are left to fend for themselves, no longer automatically cared for by their children. Public sector enlightened structures such as the area *man'amko* care center in my neighborhood have formidable cultural biases to overcome before they are fully used. While entitlement is embraced as a matter of right in the West, it is looked upon as embarrassing dole in the East, and is only slowly rising of necessity to the level of acceptance that it deserves. Communalism in China wears a sensitive "face," admirable in some respects, regrettable in others.

Two personal retreats ago when we hightailed it to Sapporo in Hokkaido on the Shinkansen, we had a chance to mosey over into the Shinjuku municipal area in Tokyo where government offices are located. In one of the well-designed city parks were temporary camps of makeshift tents housing homeless folks, a consequence of an economic system that has come to tolerate 5 percent unemployment. The envy of many for its economic miracle in the '70s and '80s, Japan has become a pariah among investors since it has ran into the limits of domestic growth with a high percentage of retired folk among its populace. Japanese capital finds it more challenging to invest elsewhere, e.g., when the Yen met Reaganomics' "qualitative easing" that devalued the dollar and appreciated the Yen, the latter found its way in real estate transactions around the world.

Two recent sights have shown this trekker grimmer views of China's economic underbelly. A disabled person was in one of those pedestrian flyovers two blocks from Mao's bronze statue at the *Hongqi Guangchang* downtown Shenyang while pedestrians ignored his unsightly plight in the cold. The other was a mentally challenged person wrapped in layers of clothing



An evening photo of Heihe's business buildings in front of the rail station as snow is falling, and a morning-after dusting of snow in the inner quad of our Shenyang low-income quarters. Inset, our trekker in his outdoors four-layer attire indoors.

and plastic in a wooded area in the Daoyi Development Area, a northern outskirts of the city and site of many educational institutions, one of which is the Aerospace University where we are currently a guest lecturer. Obvi-

ously despondent, both would be recipients of NMPASI's attention were they on Saipan; they looked like they needed advocates in their solitary lostness.

China has been exemplary in its Para Games, both in the 2008

Olympics and in the Guangzhou Asian Games, and disability infrastructure accommodation and access in many cities is enlightened, but when we saw a young mother with a bundled infant on her back begging car drivers in

one of the busy thoroughfares of the city in the cold, we realized a few are falling between the cracks in this nation's attempt to care for all its citizens.

A cold chill found its way down our spine.

NYC's Rockefeller Center lit as thousands watch



NEW YORK (AP)—Tens of thousands of people gathered in Rockefeller Center on Tuesday night to watch the lighting of the country's most famous Christmas tree, just days after a terror scare at a tree lighting in Oregon.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg

The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree stands lit during the 78th annual lighting ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, in New York.

AP

helped turn on the 30,000 energy-efficient lights dressing the Christmas tree following a show featuring performances by Jessica Simpson, Sheryl Crow, Josh Groban, British singer Katherine Jenkins and teen pop star Charice.

The 74-foot Norway spruce, donated by Peter and Stephanie Acton of Mahopac, N.Y., will be on view until Jan. 7.

The event took place less

than a week after the arrest of a 19-year-old Somali-American man charged in an alleged plot to blow up a car bomb at an Oregon Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Portland.

"It kind of crossed my mind but not enough to keep me away," said 44-year-old Lisa Kingston, who was visiting from Canada with her friend and had wanted to see the event in person after many years of

watching it on TV.

Her sentiments were echoed by 41-year-old Bonnie Hixson of Lubbock, Texas.

"It's a sign of our religious freedoms and a sign of our freedom to celebrate," Hixson said. "It's what gets my Christmas season off to a start."

Police prepared for the sizable crowd by blocking off streets and urging people to use mass transit instead of cars to get there.

Author's insect imagery wins Bad Sex writing prize

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Author Rowan Somerville won literature's little-coveted Bad Sex in Fiction Prize Monday for the use of unsettling insect imagery in his novel "The Shape of Her."

Judges of the annual liter-

ary award said they were especially impressed by a passage comparing lovemaking to "a lepidopterist mounting a tough-skinned insect."

The animal imagery continues elsewhere in the novel, a tale of desire and memory set on a Greek island. One character's fingers are described as "tender enough to hold a tiny bird."

The prize, founded in 1993 by Literary Review magazine, aims to draw attention to "the

crude, tasteless, and often perfunctory use of redundant passages of sexual description in contemporary novels."

Somerville, who was born in Britain and lives in Ireland, took his victory in good humor, noting that "there is nothing more English than bad sex."

He said he was honored to be shortlisted alongside authors like Australia's Christos Tsiolkas—for "The Slap"—and American writer Jonathan Franzen, nominated

for the best-selling "Freedom."

Previous winners include such literary heavyweights as Sebastian Faulks, Tom Wolfe, Norman Mailer and the late John Updike, who was awarded a lifetime achievement Bad Sex prize in 2008.

Last year's winner was "The Kindly Ones" by American author Jonathan Littell, which described a sex act as "a jolt that emptied my head like a spoon scraping the inside of a soft-boiled egg."

Holbrook performs Twain on author's 175th birthday

ELMIRA, N.Y. (AP)—The crowd sang happy 175th birthday to Mark Twain before the lights went down at the Clemens Center, then laughed along with the nearest incarnation of the late author and humorist: Hal Holbrook.

The 85-year-old actor once again put on his white suit and makeup and reminisced, wise-cracked, smoked and scolded Tuesday night in the latest, and not the last, stage re-enactment of Twain's world famous speaking engagements from the turn of the 20th century. Twain died 100 years ago in April and is buried in Elmira, home to the family of his adored wife, Olivia.

Performing at a sellout engagement at the 1,600-seat theater, relying as he has for decades on a simple set of lectern, high-backed chair and adjacent table, Holbrook assumed Twain's gravely drawl and rasped the master's ever-relevant wisdom on some favorite targets—politicians, religion and human nature itself. He

slouched against the lectern, sat open-legged in the chair, shuffled in profile, cigar in mouth like a tongue sticking out.

"I wonder," Holbrook says, "if God invented man because he was disappointed in the monkey." Considering the general atrocities of the world, he declares, "It is inexplicable that God would endure all this, with lightning so cheap." Another shot: "Man was made at the end of a week's work, when God was tired."

Holbrook recited, from memory, a long passage from "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and dubbed his eyes as Twain's hero lied to authority on behalf of the runaway slave Jim. He quoted from Twain's memories of his courtship of Olivia, who came from a wealthy and respectable family that had doubts about the unpolished author and requested letters of recommendation.

Even his friends turned on him.

"They not only spoke of me

with disapproval," Holbrook/Twain said, "they were enthusiastic about it."

No side of the barn was broader than our system of government. We not only have freedom of speech and freedom of worship, but the history of ignoring both. Congress, Holbrook cracked, is the "best that money can buy" and sworn to "distribute the graft."

In a quote that might have come the staff of Jon Stewart, Holbrook/Twain observes: "If you could work a multiplication table into a political platform, Republicans would vote it down."

The genius was in the words. And the timing. Holbrook recalled Twain's belief that politicians never reformed. Well, there was one politician who reformed, on election eve.

Pause.

"He died."

Pause.

"He was reformed by his friend who took him boating on the East River."

Cops: Uma Thurman stalker in Md. called her office

NEW YORK (AP)—A former psychiatric patient who was convicted in 2008 of stalking Uma Thurman tried to call her again, defying a court order to leave her alone after years of unwanted and weird advances, officials said Tuesday.

Jack Jordan was awaiting extradition to New York after he was arrested Nov. 23 in a Washington, D.C., suburb on charges of violating his restraining order by calling the actress's office, according to police and the Brooklyn district attorney's office, which is prosecuting the case.

It was unclear whether Jordan has a lawyer. The New York attorney who previously represented him said Tuesday he hadn't heard from Jordan about the new allegations.

Calls to a number believed to be the family home where

Jordan was staying rang unanswered Tuesday.

Jordan, a former lifeguard and pool cleaner with an English degree from the University of Chicago and a history of men-



Jordan

tal problems, was sentenced in 2008 to three years' probation and told not to try to contact

the Oscar-nominated "Pulp Fiction" actress for five years. Montgomery County, Md., police spokeswoman Lucille Baur said when officers went to serve the arrest warrant in North Potomac, they were led to a room where Jordan was sitting in front of a computer with

Thurman's name in a Google search box.

Baur said Jordan was arrested without incident and is awaiting a Dec. 21 extradition hearing.

Thurman's spokesman didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Jordan was convicted of stalking and harassing the actress from 2005 to 2007.

Thurman told jurors at his trial that she was "completely freaked out" by his behavior. He sent bizarre letter and cards—featuring such ominous images as a picture of a bride with her head torn off and such unsettling messages as "my hands should be on your body at all times"—called her family and employees, tried to get into her trailer on a movie set and showed up at her Manhattan home late at night, according to testimony.

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Tangled

Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale gets a lavish CG makeover as directors Glen Keane and Dean Wellins team to tell the tale of a fair-haired beauty with long-flowing locks, a gallant hero with a heart of gold, and the evil witch who plots to keep these lovelorn innocents apart.



Faster

Fri and Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton
 Action, Drama • Rated R



Burlesque

Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Cher, Christina Aguilera
 Musical • Rated PG 13



Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows 1

Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The final chapter of the Harry Potter saga comes to the screen in this feature adaptation of the popular novel by children's fantasy author J.K. Rowling, with series veterans Steve Kloves and David Yates writing and directing, respectively. The Deathly Hallows will be split up into two films, with Part 2 set for release six months later.



The Next Three Days

Fri and Sat 4:10 9:50
 Sunday 4:10
 Mon through Thurs 4:10

Russel Crowe, Elizabeth Banks
 Thriller • Rated PG 13



Skyline

Fri and Sat 1:10 7:10
 Sunday 1:10 7:10
 Mon through Thurs 7:10

Donald Faison, Eric Balfour
 Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13



Unstoppable

Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
 Action • Rated PG 13



Megamind

Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Will Farrell, Tina Fey
 Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

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Jackson wrongful death case refiled

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's father has refiled a wrongful death lawsuit in state court against the doctor charged in his son's death and added a Las Vegas pharmacy as a defendant.

Joseph Jackson originally filed the suit in federal court, but a judge declined to hear the case and said it should be handled in Los

Angeles Superior Court.

The case accuses Dr. Conrad Murray of negligence in administering the anesthetic propofol to Jackson.

It also names Applied Pharmacy Services in Las Vegas, which court records show sold the drug to Murray nearly a month before the singer's death in June 2009. Authorities

have said the sale was legal.

Authorities blamed propofol for the 50-year-old pop superstar's death. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

A phone message for a spokeswoman for Murray's attorney, Miranda Sevcik, was not immediately returned.

Depp says Disney hated his Captain Sparrow

NEW YORK (AP)—Johnny Depp's flamboyant portrayal of Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean" was good enough for an Oscar nomination, but the actor says Disney was less than thrilled.

Depp talked about it in an interview with rocker Patti Smith for the January edition of Vanity Fair magazine. Depp said Disney "couldn't stand" his Sparrow and one person there even asked if Sparrow was gay. Depp told the Disney executive "all my characters are gay," and

he said that "really made her nervous."

Depp's next role is in the movie "The Tourist" with Angelina Jolie. It opens Dec. 10.

Depp said he felt sorry for the way the paparazzi hunted Jolie, and had to be careful that photographers didn't catch them too close together so rumors wouldn't start.

In this magazine cover image released by Vanity Fair, actor Johnny Depp is shown on the cover of the January 2011 issue of "Vanity Fair."

AP



Billie Joe Armstrong to join 'Idiot' for 50 shows

NEW YORK (AP)—Billie Joe Armstrong apparently liked his Broadway debut in "American Idiot"—he's signed on to return for 50 performances.

Producers said Tuesday the Green Day frontman will reprise the role of St. Jimmy in the punk rock musical that his songs inspired beginning Jan. 1 and ending Feb. 27 at The St. James Theatre.

Armstrong will appear in the show in three large chunks—Jan. 1-9, Jan. 18-30 and Feb. 10-27. Original Broadway cast member Tony Vincent will end his run as St. Jimmy on Dec. 30.

Having the musical's composer and co-author aboard has already proved a big draw. When Armstrong made his Broadway debut in Septem-

ber for a week, the box-office take was more than \$1 million. Last week, the show grossed \$600,000.

The show is based on Green Day's Grammy Award-winning "American Idiot" concept album. It features every track from the album, plus several tunes from Green Day's CD "21st Century Breakdown."

The musical—directed by Michael Mayer and with Tom Kitt's musical arrangement—was nominated for three Tony Awards, including best musical, and won for best sets and lighting.

The high-octane show follows the story of three working-class characters from the suburbs to the city to the Middle East, as they seek redemption in a world filled with frustration.

'Jackass 3.5' to be released in Web installments

NEW YORK (AP)—Johnny Knoxville's crew is again following a box-office release with a digital addendum called "Jackass 3.5."

Producers Paramount Pictures and MTV Films announced Tuesday that "Jackass 3.5" will be released in weekly online installments, with a subsequent

feature-length film released digitally in March. Exactly where "Jackass 3.5" will be available wasn't announced.

The footage will feature surplus stunts from "Jackass 3D," which has earned more than \$116 million at the box office since its October release.

Families who move should also take along their pets

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm responding to the letter from "Petless in Maryland" (10/13), who moved without her dog, cat and goldfish, but wants to encourage her son's love of animals. Your advice was spot-on, but there is a deeper issue that was not addressed. By moving and leaving their pets behind, she has taught her son that animals are "disposable." An animal is a commitment for life, not an object to be disposed of once one's lifestyle changes. A pet is a member of the family, the same as a child or other family member.

"Petless" should have kept looking until they found an affordable place where they could keep their pets. The shelters are full of pets who have been abandoned by their families due to moves, divorces, etc.

"Petless" cannot afford the fees to keep a pet—but I'm willing to bet that she can afford a cell phone, cable TV, etc. She missed a chance to teach her son how to be a responsible pet owner, and how to honor the commitment that was made to those pets. What a shame.

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER, READING, PA.

DEAR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER: Your point is well-taken, and some readers did agree with you. However, not knowing the woman's circumstances, I am unwilling to judge her. Other readers did reach out to offer ways to encourage "Toby" to love animals and someday become a responsible pet owner. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: There are a lot of options for pet lovers without resources for permanent adoption. "Petless" could contact the local SPCA and other agencies that might be looking for volunteers to have "visits" with pets. There is also a pretty big market for "dog walkers." There is even a market for pet sitters, who do it to make extra money for their families.

SANDI IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: There are rescue groups that have to put some of their adoptable dogs into boarding while they wait for a forever home. These dogs would love an hour or two of "breaking jail" for a walk or a trip to the dog park. A reputable organization would know the personalities of their dogs and be able to steer the mom toward "kid-tested" dogs that would get along great with her son. It would not only be an excellent way to encourage the boy, but also a wonderful thing for the dogs.

ASHLEY IN SAN MARCOS, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: How about "Petless" contacting a senior center to see which seniors might need assistance with walking their dogs or with cat care? An assisted-living facility could also use this type of help. It would provide "Toby" a chance to share the love of animals, and the elderly residents would welcome such a sweet helper.

PEGREEN IN RIO RANCHO, NEW MEXICO

DEAR ABBY: You frequently recommend readers seek therapy. I have been in therapy for eight years and see very little progress. Do you have any statistics that prove how helpful therapy actually is?

SKEPTICAL IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR SKEPTICAL: Although I don't have statistics, I do have testimonials from individuals who have found therapy to be beneficial. I have printed some of them in this column. I do, however, have a suggestion for you: After eight years and "very little progress," you may be with the wrong person, and you should seriously consider changing therapists.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Stern seeks dismissal of conviction in Smith case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Howard K. Stern has asked a judge to dismiss his conviction for obtaining prescription drugs under a false name for his former lover, the late Playboy model Anna Nicole Smith. If dismissal is refused, Stern sought a new trial or reduction of his two convictions to misdemeanors. He was acquitted of seven charges and the judge dismissed two others. Stern maintains that using false names on prescriptions to protect a celebrity's privacy is a common practice in Los Angeles. His lawyer J. Christopher Smith said in a motion filed Tuesday that Stern believed it was legal for Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, a co-defendant, to prescribe medication to Smith using Stern's name. Stern and Eroshevich are scheduled for sentencing Jan. 6. Smith died of a drug overdose in 2007 but the defendants were not charged in her death.

US museum to sell O'Keeffe painting in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A Georgia O'Keeffe painting from the New Mexico museum that's named after her is going on the auction

block in New York City. "Canna Red and Orange" is estimated to bring \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million at Christie's on Wednesday. The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe is selling the 1926 oil depicting a colorful canna flower. It was originally owned by the Downtown Gallery in New York. In 1960, it was sold into a private collection and donated to the museum in 1997. The museum says the proceeds will allow it to acquire works important to its holdings. O'Keeffe permanently moved to New Mexico from New York in 1949. She died in 1986.

'Entertainment Tonight' creator dies at 80

HONOLULU (AP)—The Hollywood producer who created "Entertainment Tonight," "Star Search," "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," "Solid Gold," and numerous other TV shows has died in Honolulu. Alfred "Al" Masini was 80. His publicist, Kristin Jackson, says Masini died Monday in the Hawaii city, where he has lived for years. Masini is survived by his wife, Charlyn Honda Masini, and his sister Melba Marvinny. In a statement to Hawaii News Now, Charlyn Honda Masini described her husband as a "humble, sweet, lovable person." She added that he

loved Hawaii and its people. In a separate statement, actress and longtime friend Carol Burnett said she was very sorry to hear of Al Masini's death. She called him a "talented producer and a fine man."

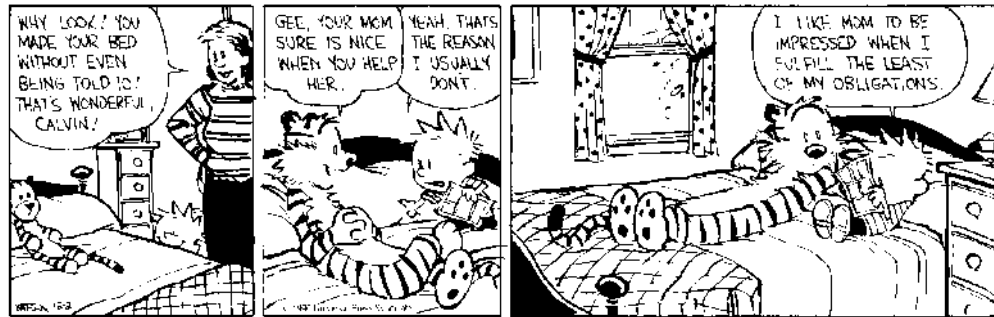
'Law & Order' tees up plot with Tiger Woods echoes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tiger Woods may want to skip this week's episode of "Law & Order: Los Angeles." The plot on Wednesday's show includes a philandering golf star and his club-wielding wife. When police arrive, the bleeding athlete says his spouse was merely attempting to rescue him—in this case, from their swimming pool rather than a wrecked car. After Woods' November 2009 car crash, he acknowledged a string of infidelities and his marriage to Elin Nordegren unraveled. The NBC crime drama goes in a very different direction, with detectives investigating the murder of a female golf pro. The "Law & Order" franchise is known for its ripped-from-the-headlines approach, but a series spokeswoman called the episode strictly fiction. "Law & Order: Los Angeles," with Skeet Ulrich, Corey Stoll and Terrence Howard, airs 10 p.m. EST Wednesday on NBC.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



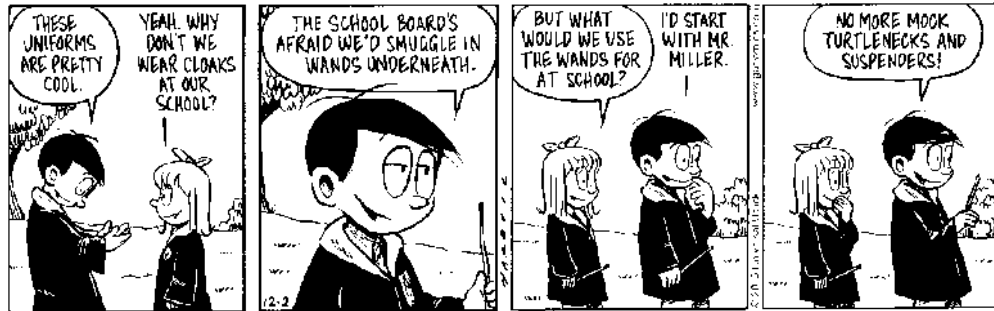
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



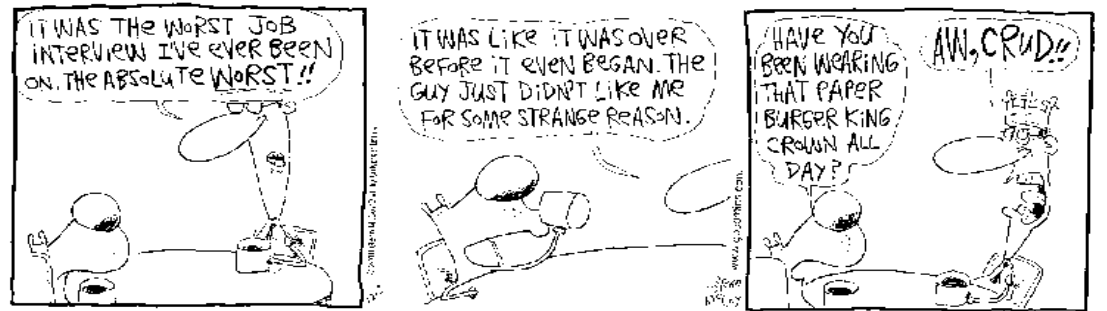
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

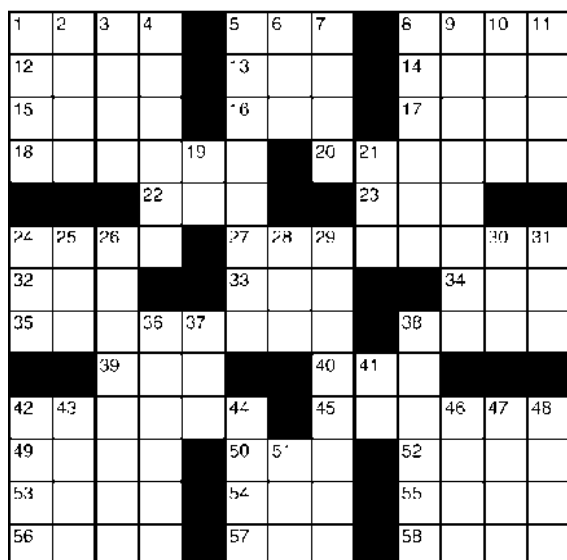
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Mamma Mia" quartet
- 5 Silent agent
- 8 Federal tide
- 12 Exploit type
- 13 Entice trio
- 14 Lofty remark
- 16 America's uncle
- 17 One side of the Urals
- 18 Central jobs
- 20 Trite season
- 22 Extinct kiwi
- 23 Always, in verse
- 24 Door-frame piece
- 27 Woman's garment
- 32 Dhabbi score-board abbr.
- 34 Rowing need
- 35 Profligate
- DOWN**
- 1 Opposed to
- 2 Kidney or fava
- 3 Ointment
- 4 Poise
- 5 Handle-bar, for example
- 6 NAFTA signatory
- 7 Note to the staff
- 8 Open areas in the forest
- 9 Pizza topping
- 10 Met melody
- 11 Spruced up
- 19 Therefore
- 21 Floral garland
- 24 Leno's promise
- 25 Lawyers' org.
- 26 Sweet variety of wine
- 28 Internet giant
- 29 Broadway offerings
- 30 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 31 Work unit
- 36 Muss up rate
- 37 Spinning (Abbr.)
- 38 Grab it!
- 41 "Forget it!"
- 42 Actress
- 43 Regretted
- 44 Help a hood
- 46 Anger
- 47 Burn somewhat
- 48 Sea flock
- 51 "The Greatest"

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-2



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Britney Spears, 29; Monica Seles, 37; Rena Sofer, 42; Lucy Liu, 42

Happy Birthday: You are true to your beliefs and will not back down when faced with adversity. You are strong-willed and know instinctively what will get you ahead this year. It is a progressive, productive and prosperous time for you to take advantage of every opportunity available. Interacting with others and offering your services will bring you beneficial results and new friendships. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 23, 26, 32, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may be used to rushing here and there but today you must slow down and give a little more time and attention to what you do and say. Tactful diplomacy will be required. Get involved in an activity that will ease your stress. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be the leader and take charge. Getting along with colleagues will ensure you get the support you need. A change at work or within an organization you do business with will be favorable. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There is money to be made and contracts to draw up and sign. An opportunity to help someone will lead to a job that brings a cash return. Don't turn down a chance to volunteer your services. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Plan a social event or get together with friends who share your interests. Do something that will make you happy or will help you feel

good about yourself. Love and romance are highlighted. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sticking around home may result in an emotional situation. Do something that challenges and inspires you. Don't show your surprise or upset if you don't like what you hear from a friend. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have to pick your battles carefully. On the one hand, you can have some really good talks that lead to constructive change. But you can also meet with disapproval and criticism if you are too vocal. Stay calm. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let depression set in just because someone is giving you a hard time. A little creativity incorporated into whatever you do will differentiate your work from that of others. Do something nice for a friend, relative or neighbor. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do what you can to make your home life better. Plan to have friends over or offer your home as a meeting place for colleagues. You may find that you are thinking more about a past partner. Weigh the pros and cons. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It will be difficult to contain your feelings, especially if someone is giving you the runaround or playing emotional games with you. Don't mix business with pleasure. Someone is likely to let you down or not show you the respect you deserve. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Prepare for the unexpected. If you are ready

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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for whatever can go wrong, you can avoid a situation with someone who tends to overreact. You can avoid a lot of unnecessary turmoil if you refuse to argue with someone who is looking for a fight. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will escalate. You can start working on something innovative or lend a helping hand to someone in need, but if you leave yourself too much idle time, you will eventually run into trouble. A last-minute change of plans will cause upset. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Try your hand at something you've always wanted to do but never had the time. The skills you have, coupled with your imagination, will lead to a profitable venture. Someone with the ability to help you get ahead will like what you are doing. *****

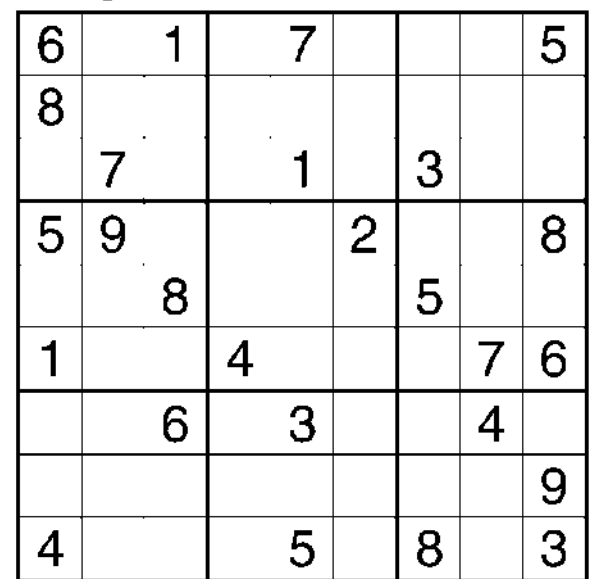
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



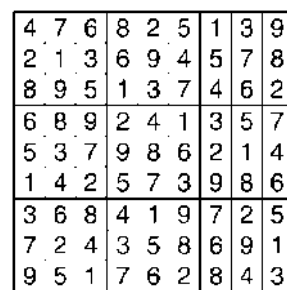
Difficulty Level ★★★

12/02

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Horizontal, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MEXICAN SOMBREROS

Solution: 8 letters



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At: go, Anba, Authentic, Baroque, Black, Braid, Brim, Charros, Ch 1, Colors, Corchos, Costume, Crown, Dance, Desert, Event, Fiesta, Folk, Gold, Guitar, Hair, Lace, Mayo, Mexican, Musician, Palma, Party, Poblano, Rich, Rural, Saucer, Secuins, Serape, Shadow, Silky, Silver, Sizes, Spanish, Straw, Symbol, Tejara, Vaquero, Ventrail, Wall, Wexaco, White, Zapata
Yesterday's Answer: Pianist

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to expected high occupancy levels on Saturday, December 4, 2010, Waterpark Passes will be unavailable for sale and complimentary gift certificates will not be honored on that day. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation. Normal Waterpark Pass sales will resume on Sunday, December 5, 2010.

PIC Management

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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CONTRACT: Two-year.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: 1. "Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science or other field related to work in engineering, science or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations" 2. "Proven management and communication skills" 3. "Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff" 4. "Experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design, and construction" 5. "Further, the TMO should have experience with one or more of the following: oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statements of work; oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements." *Applicants with the following credentials shall be preferred: Master's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, or chemical engineering; Certification in API tank inspection; Management experience of at least ten (10) years in a multi-service utility, public works or petroleum tank farm operation.*

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Rondo's 23 points lead Celtics over Cavaliers



CLEVELAND (AP)—Rajon Rondo scored a season-high 23 points with 12 assists to lead the Boston Celtics to their fourth straight win, 106-87 on Tuesday night over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who can now start concentrating on LeBron James' upcoming visit.

Rondo missed his first three shots before hitting 11 of his next 14 to help the Celtics build a 20-point lead in the fourth. Glen Davis added 17 points, Marquis Daniels 16 and Kevin Garnett 10 rebounds as Boston avenged an early-season loss in Cleveland.

Anderson Varejao and Daniel Gibson scored 16 apiece for the Cavs. On Thursday, James will make his first trip into Cleveland since announcing this summer he would sign with Miami.

Rondo's playing with a tender left hamstring and sore foot, but he hardly seemed to be bothered. Boston coach Doc Rivers intends to monitor the point guard's minutes going forward, but he left him in for 38 as the Celtics handed the Cavs their seventh loss in 10 games.

When he was replaced with 4:04 left by Von Wafer, Rondo was applauded by everyone on Boston's bench and got a loving slap on the backside as he walked past Rivers.

Before the game, Cavaliers coach Byron Scott said Rondo belongs in the conversation when debating the league's premier point guards along with Chris Paul, Deron Williams and Derrick Rose. Rondo didn't do anything but reinforce Scott's opinion of him.

On several trips, he simply blew through Cleveland's defense for easy layups, set up his teammates for easy shots and commanded the floor.

Leading by 11 at half, the Celtics pulled away from the Cavs in the third quarter.

Garnett, who slightly rolled his ankle in the period when he stepped on Pierce's foot, concerted a three-point play to make it 77-61. Daniels followed with one of his own, pushing Boston's lead to 19 and deflating the hopes of Cleveland's fans.

There was a buzz in the building, and it may not have just been because of the Celtics.

With James set to arrive in less than



Boston Celtics guard Rajon Rondo (9) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers forward Anderson Varejao, from Brazil, in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, in Cleveland.

48 hours, Cleveland is ramping up for a night the city's fans have been waiting for since the NBA schedule was announced in August.

At halftime, Cavs owner Dan Gilbert said he expects fans to be emotional but under control for the game, which

has drawn huge interest. The team will have extra security in place to assure there's no trouble.

The Celtics hadn't played since Friday and they had a mini-controversy during the extended break.

Grizzlies 98, Lakers 96

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley scored 10 of his season-high 28 points in the fourth quarter as Memphis handed Los Angeles its third straight loss.

It's just the second three-game skid for the Lakers since they traded with Memphis for Pau Gasol to team him up with Kobe Bryant in February 2008, and the team's first since March.

The Grizzlies now have won four straight at home and four of five overall.

Bryant finished with a game-high 29 points, but was 9-of-25 from the floor, including 1-of-6 from 3-point range. Gasol had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Knicks 111, Nets 100

In New York, Amare Stoudemire scored 35 points as the New York Knicks broke open a close game in the second half to defeat New Jersey.

Wilson Chandler added 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks, who won for the seventh time in eight games and improved to 10-9. Raymond Felton finished with 21 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds.

New Jersey point guard Devin Harris injured his left knee on Chandler's basket that broke a 65-all tie midway through the third quarter, part of a 14-2 spurt that gave the Knicks a 10-point lead.

Brook Lopez scored a season-high 36 points and Jordan Farmar had 17 for the Nets.

Magic 90, Pistons 79

In Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis scored 20 points and Mickael Pietrus added 13 to lift Orlando over struggling Detroit.

Vince Carter also scored 13 points in a win against a Detroit franchise that has caused Orlando headaches for years.

The Magic have now won seven of their past eight games.

Tayshaun Prince scored 16 points and Rodney Stuckey had 14 for the Pistons, who have lost four of their last five games.

76ers 88, Trail Blazers 79

In Philadelphia, Elton Brand scored 18 points and Jrue Holiday and Andres

Nocioni added 11 each as Philadelphia beat Portland.

Philadelphia trailed 72-70 midway through the fourth quarter before going on a 15-4 run that put the game away with 1:50 left. Andre Iguodala, who entered the game averaging 14.8 points, was held to seven — although four came in the fourth quarter.

Wesley Matthews scored 26 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 for the Blazers, who struggled again in the fourth quarter.

They managed only 13 fourth-quarter points in a 97-78 home loss to New Orleans on Friday, then scored just 18 points in the final period in a loss to New Jersey.

Spurs 118, Warriors 98

In Oakland, Calif., Tim Duncan had his first triple double in nearly two years with 15 points, 18 rebounds and 11 assists, Manu Ginobili added 27 points and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Golden State Warriors.

Duncan, who recently moved past David Robinson to become the Spurs' career scoring leader, shot just 6 of 15 from the field but matched his career-high for assists and matched his season-high for rebounds.

San Antonio, which won its ninth straight against Golden State, improved its NBA-best record to 15-2.

Stephen Curry scored 32 points and David Lee added 18 points and seven rebounds for Golden State (8-10). The Warriors have lost eight of their last 10.

Pacers 107, Kings 98

In Sacramento, Calif., Danny Granger scored a season-high 37 points for the Indiana Pacers, who used a strong third quarter to pull away from the Sacramento Kings.

The victory was the fourth in five games for the Pacers, who began their four-game road trip by beating the Lakers on Sunday night.

Beno Udrih scored 24 points for the Kings, who have dropped five straight, 10 of 11 and are 2-8 at home. Rookie DeMarcus Cousins, who was kicked out of a Monday practice, responded with a career-high tying 18 points. Tyreke Evans had 16 points and nine assists, but committed six turnovers.

James on Cleveland: 'Lot of thanks to those fans'

MIAMI (AP)—There's not much LeBron James can absolutely say about what awaits when he returns to Cleveland as an opponent on Thursday night.

Fun, weird, tough, draining. James cites them all as expectations.

He's likely right on each count, and who knows how many more ways the emotional gamut will swing on Thursday when the Miami Heat visit Cleveland, the city James scorned on July 8 when he announced in a nationally televised special that he was "taking my talents to South Beach."

It'll be James' first time back as a visitor, and Cavaliers fans have been waiting months to not welcome him home.

"It's going to be tough, but I'm there to win a basketball game," James said after Tuesday's Heat practice and preparing for Wednesday's game against Detroit—almost forgotten given the magnitude of what looms Thursday. "I understand. I understand how passion-

ate fans are about sports. I'm ready for whatever response that I'm going to get. It's going to be very emotional."

True, for all parties involved.

But the NBA might have helped James out a bit with this trip.

Because Miami plays at home Wednesday night, the Heat will not arrive in Cleveland until early Thursday morning. The team won't practice that day, just have meetings and a walk-through at its hotel, which will be teaming with security—like always. They'll bus to the arena, play the game, head to the airport and leave for Miami.

No time to visit old haunts or old friends. A business trip, nothing more, nothing less, and James seems relieved by that.

"I think it's going to be very emotional for myself," James said. "I've got a lot of great memories in that city. So many times, from ups and downs, and a lot of

things that I've done in my life, I give a lot of thanks to that city, lot of thanks to those fans for giving me the opportunity to not only showcase my talent but grow from a young boy to a man."

He's not from Cleveland, but Akron, about 40 miles south. The Cavaliers' franchise was reborn when they won the right to pick James No. 1 overall in the 2003 draft, and together, they soared. Cleveland won 349 games during James' seven seasons, second-most in the Eastern Conference over that span, and the Cavaliers' 127 wins in 2008-09 and 2009-10—James' MVP years—topped the NBA charts.

So when he became a free agent, there was angst in Cleveland, understandably.

Angst turned to anger at 9:27 p.m. on July 8, when James revealed his decision.

"I think it's going to be something that none of us have ever seen before," Heat

guard Dwyane Wade said of what's coming on Thursday. "If we can be a fan and watch it from afar, we all would, and not go. I would love to watch it and see as a fan, but I'm involved in it. It's going to be entertainment for everyone to watch."

Some Heat fans will gather to watch, at a team-sponsored event known as a "road rally."

Of course, it'll happen at the Cleveland—on South Beach. At least the Heat will be cheered somewhere on Thursday.

"I'm sure a lot of people are going to show their support for the Cavaliers in their own kind of way," Heat forward Chris Bosh said. "I don't think we know what to expect, but I'm sure it's going to be something like we've never seen before."

He'll see something like it on Feb. 16, when he returns to Toronto, his former home, for the first time as an opponent.

"I'm glad LeBron breaks the ice

first," Bosh said.

It's a Cleveland homecoming for former Cavs center Zydrunas Ilgauskas as well, and while he said the trip will be "a unique situation," he's almost certain not to face the level of venom that'll be directed at James.

Wade said he'll give James simple advice beforehand.

"The only thing I would say to him is not try to go out to get 100 points," Wade said. "Play the game. Let the game flow to you. I know he wants to play great, but sometimes you can force it too much. Just play basketball like LeBron James."

Which is what James says he'll do.

He won't break from his normal routine for this game, and doesn't plan to reach out to fans in any way, though he noted that he remains "very respectful" of the people who cheered him for seven years.

"It's one game," James said. "I know everyone is making it a huge deal, but it's one game."

Tulowitzki gets \$157.75 million, 10-year deal



Colorado Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki talks to the media during a news conference announcing his contract extension through the 2020 season, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, in Denver.



NEW YORK (AP)—As the Yankees resumed contract talks with Derek Jeter, another All-Star shortstop finalized

a huge deal.

Troy Tulowitzki tore up his current agreement with the Colorado Rockies and agreed Tuesday to a 10-year contract worth \$157.75 million—the eighth-biggest deal in baseball history.

“I’m really lucky,” Tulowitzki said. “I can’t wait to be here my entire career.”

His previous contract had three years and \$25.75 million in guaranteed money remaining, meaning the new deal added \$132 million and seven seasons.

Baseball’s collective bargaining agreement prohibits extensions, forcing the sides to sign a new contract.

Tulowitzki wanted to emulate his idol, Baltimore’s Cal Ripken Jr., who played in just one city, and not his mentor, St. Louis slugger Matt Holliday, whose departure from Denver a couple of years ago after 11 years in the Rockies organization deeply affected him.

“I didn’t want that to happen to me,” Tulowitzki said. “I wanted to stay here for my career and not deal with all the other stuff. I’m sure he’s in a great place now and I know he’s happy but at the same time, this is where I want to be.”

Tulowitzki’s contract trails two of Alex Rodri-

guez’s deals (\$275 million and \$252 million) and agreements for Jeter (\$189 million), Joe Mauer (\$184 million), Mark Teixeira (\$180 million), CC Sabathia (\$161 million) and Manny Ramirez (\$160 million).

Jeter and the Yankees hadn’t met since Nov. 8 before Tuesday’s session, which was divulged by a baseball official familiar with the discussion. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the team and agent Casey Close didn’t make any announcements.

“I feel confident that Derek will remain with the Yankees, and my brother does, as well,” Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner said, without confirming the meeting took place.

New York offered Jeter a \$45 million, three-year contract at the start of negotiations. Going into Tuesday, Jeter had not made a formal proposal.

Before Tuesday, Close had suggested a contract averaging about \$23 million for four or five seasons, the baseball official said, but the numbers were suggested loosely by Close and should not be interpreted as a precise request.

“We want to keep him. He’s very important,” Hank Steinbrenner said. “I certainly hope he remains with us and he certainly should.”

Two right-handed relievers came off the free-agent market when they agreed to salary arbitration: Frank Francisco with the Texas Rangers and Jason Frasor with the Toronto Blue Jays. Teams offered arbitration to 33 free agents last week, but the rest declined.

After finalizing a \$21 million, three-year contract with infielder Juan Uribe, the Los Angeles Dodgers traded infielder Ryan Theriot to the St. Louis Cardinals for reliever Blake Hawksworth.

“I have nothing bad to say about the Giants,” Uribe said through a translator during a conference call. “I was very happy with how the fans treated me and how the Giants treated me. As far as leaving, I have no control over the teams I play for.”

San Francisco found its new shortstop, reaching a preliminary agreement with Miguel Tejada on a \$6.5 million, one-year contract. The deal is pending a physical.

“I take pride in having the opportunity to compete for that team,” Tejada told the AP in Spanish.

St. Louis also agreed to a \$750,000, one-year contract with pitcher Brian Tallet—Theriot’s teammate on the 2000 LSU team that won the College World Series.

Theriot hit .270 with 29 RBIs last season with the Chicago Cubs and Dodgers. He has played both middle infield spots, but prefers shortstop.

“We felt this was a really good fit for us,” Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said. “This is not necessarily the last move we’re going to make between now and opening day, but if we did have to start today he would likely be our shortstop.”

Tallet, a 33-year-old left-hander, was 2-6 with a 6.40 ERA in five starts and 29 relief appearances for Toronto last season.

Houston agreed to a \$1 million, one-year contract with catcher Humberto Quintero, and Texas gave Japanese right-hander Yoshinori Tateyama a one-year contract that includes club options for 2012 and 2013.

Steinbrenner confident Jeter will remain with Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Hank Steinbrenner thinks Derek Jeter and the New York Yankees will agree to a new contract.

“I feel confident that Derek will remain with the Yankees, and my brother does, as well,” New York’s co-chairman said Tuesday night in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The Yankees resumed negotiations Tuesday with Jeter and his agent, Casey Close, a baseball official familiar with the discussion said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the team and Close didn’t make any announcements.

Neither the official nor Steinbrenner would discuss what took place directly between the sides in the talks, which were first reported by foxsports.com.

“I’m not going to get into who’s met who,” Steinbrenner said.

New York had offered Jeter a \$45 million, three-year contract at the start of negotiations. Going into Tuesday, the All-Star shortstop had not made a formal proposal.

Ahead of the session with the Yankees, Jeter met with Close to prepare for the resumption of talks, the official said. The sides had not met since Nov. 8.

Before Tuesday, Close had suggested a contract averaging about \$23 million for four or five seasons, the baseball official said, but the numbers were suggested loosely by Close and should not be interpreted as a precise request.

“We want to keep him. He’s very important,” Hank Steinbrenner said. “I certainly hope he remains with us and he certainly should.”

Jeter, who turns 37 in June, is coming off a \$189 million, 10-year contract, behind only Alex Rodriguez’s \$275 million and \$252 million, 10-year deals.

Another All-Star shortstop, Colorado’s Troy Tulowitzki, agreed Tuesday to a new contract that pays him \$157.75 million over the next decade. The 26-year-old Tulowitzki had been guaranteed \$25.75 million through 2013.

Beckett Media, which prices baseball cards, posted pictures of Jeter in the jerseys all 30 major league teams, a blog page titled “TOTALLY FAKE BASEBALL CARDS.”

Beckett playfully envisioned him with the Pirates, Royals and Cardinals, among others. First up is Jeter in a Red Sox uniform on a card that says: “Boston’s Best” followed by “Jeter: You Ain’t Seen Nawthin’ Yet.”

His Oakland card says: “Money-ball! Jeter Cashes In With Long-Term Deal,” and his Colorado Rockies card calls him the “Blake Street Bambino.” His Mets card says: “New York, New York” and “Derek Jeter Takes the Subway in 2011.”

Jeter’s Dodgers card says: “Bleeding Blue” and “Jeter Sees Green With Long-Term Deal.”

Steelers’ Harrison fined \$25K for Fitzpatrick hit



PITTSBURGH (AP)—Steelers linebacker James Harrison was fined \$25,000 on Tuesday for his penalized hit on Buffalo quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Harrison has four fines this season totaling \$125,000.

Harrison drew a roughing-the-passer penalty for hitting Fitzpatrick helmet-first during Pittsburgh’s 19-16 overtime victory Sunday.

“James Harrison was fined \$25,000 for roughing the passer, specifically he made helmet contact to the chest of the Buffalo quarterback, who was in a defenseless position at the time the contact was made,” the NFL said in an e-

mail Tuesday to The Associated Press.

After the game, the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker said the play didn’t warrant a fine. He compared it to his Nov. 21 roughing-the-passer penalty against Raiders quarterback Jason Campbell that did not draw a fine.

“I’m not expecting a fine,” Harrison said. “It’s the exact thing as last week. It was the same exact hit. I hit him (Fitzpatrick) the same way I did the quarterback from Oakland and I got the same flag but I didn’t get a fine. ... I’m expecting the same thing on this.”

Harrison previously was fined \$75,000 for a helmet hit on Browns wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi, \$20,000 for a helmet-to-the-back hit

on Saints quarterback Drew Brees and \$5,000 for a hit on Titans quarterback Vince Young.

On Monday, the league rejected Harrison’s appeals of the \$75,000 and \$20,000 fines, although the Steelers supported Harrison’s appeal.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin declined Tuesday to debate whether Harrison should have been fined for the Fitzpatrick play. But Tomlin suggested Harrison needs to alter his tackling style to conform to the NFL’s stricter enforcement of dangerous hits - a toughened stance that was prompted, in part, by the Massaquoi hit.

“Obviously he does because the league doesn’t agree with him,” Tomlin

said. “My opinion doesn’t matter.”

Tomlin also was asked if it’s fair that the league keeps singling out Harrison for large fines.

“Man, life isn’t fair,” Tomlin said. “I’m not concerned about fairness. I’m really not. I’m concerned about preparing for the Baltimore Ravens” on Sunday.

Earlier this season, Tomlin and Steelers President Art Rooney II defended Harrison, and Tomlin told his players he doesn’t want the league’s stance to affect the way they play. Rooney also said the league was wrong for disciplining players for what he felt were legal hits, including the Harrison hit on Massaquoi.

Kitty Kats, The House rout opponents

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Kitty Kats
Ferrera
Builders
and The
House

routed separate opponents as action in the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup continued Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kitty Kats leaned on a balanced scoring attack to defeat Exclusive, 79-48, in the first game in the 45A division.

Lilio Tiples paced the team with five markers in the opening period to help build an early 18-14 lead.

Both teams did a good job sharing the ball but Kitty Kats stretched its advantage to 32-26 at the half.

After the break, Kitty Kats put it in high gear. Team captain

Warren Villegas led the charge with eight points, while his team continued to play solid defense, containing Exclusive to only 14 markers in the third period. The scoreboard read, 54-40, Kitty Kats in front after three quarters of play.

Kitty Kats then ran away with it in the final period. Jhun Abedes came off the bench for Kitty Kats in the fourth quarter and provided seven markers to help secure the victory.

Abedes and Tiples each accounted for 13 points in the game, while Roy Miguel led Exclusive with 11 on the short end.

In the second game, The House ran over Armatech, 112-56, in the 40A age group.

The House took control of the game early. Both of these teams were undefeated with a pair of wins coming into this matchup and both groups showed the ability to break 100 offensively



WALTER SUTHERLAND
The House's Tony Diaz takes advantage of a breakaway steal in last Tuesday's 40A matchup against Armatech in the MBFN-MI's Memorial Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

on any given day.

The stage was set for a barn-burner, but The House simply had Armatech's number this time around. The House's El-

mer Pineda tallied 10 points in the first quarter and single-handedly bested Armatech's eight-point team effort in the opening period.

The House led, 26-8, after the first 10 minutes of action.

Then The House poured it on again in the second quarter and maintained its strong double-digit margin, 54-23, at the half. George Masga took over from Pineda and delivered 12 points in the period.

After the break, The House demoralized Armatech, which looked like a completely different team than the group that scored 102 points just a week ago. Already trailing by over 20 points at the start of the period, Armatech was outscored 11-32 in the third quarter alone. Needless to say it did not mount a comeback in the fourth quarter.

The House's high scorers were Masga and Tony Diaz, who combined for 44 points in

KFAS

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Darin Keizer's turn to make it to the scoreboard for the team's commanding 5-0 advantage.

After a series of misfortunes, Paire finally scored, thanks to Dunn William's goal in the 65th minute. However, Inter Godfather's still had the last say when Arkie Reusora logged his first goal of the game in the 78th minute.

Inter Godfather's was paired against Paire in the first round of the playoffs after topping Group A. Inter Godfather's finished the round-robin elimination in the 10-team field with a 3-1-0 win-

draw-loss record, the same mark MP United had. However, Inter Godfather's won the tiebreak due to its superior goal total of 19 against MP United's 14.

Paire placed fourth in Group B with its 1-1-2 mark and the lost eliminated the team from the championship round.

KFAS boosted its chances to advance to the finals after a 5-2 triumph over Matansa Football Club in the second game last Sunday.

The Korean strikers scored three goals in overtime to oust Matansa, which led the last time at 2-1 before Sung In Kim's goal in the 79th minute sent the game in overtime.

Matansa's two goals both

came from Santa Kumur Tamang (54th and 70th minute), while KFAS got its first goal from Young Ha Hwang in the eighth minute and the second from Kim. Kim added another goal in overtime, while Jun Woo Lee and Jeong Jin Jeon also scored in the extension period.

KFAS was pitted against Matansa after placing second in Group B with its 2-2-0 mark. Matansa was seeded third in Group A with its 2-0-2 slate.

Next up for KFAS is Inter Godfather's with the winner of the Dec. 12 match moving into the Dec. 19 title game.

Meanwhile, Paire and Matansa will play tonight for placing purposes only, while Wild Bill's

will take on Independents FC on Sunday in the first game and MP United will battle Baek Du San in the second match.

Wild Bill's ruled Group B with its 3-1-0 mark, while Independents finished fourth in Group P with its 1-0-3 card.

The winner of the Wild Bill's-Independents tiff will face the victor of the MP United-Baek Du San duel for the second finals berth on Dec. 12.

Only four teams each in Group A and B made it to the playoffs. Newcomer Shirley's Coffee Shop Football Club and Tan Holdings Football Club were eliminated after failing to notch a single win in the regular season.

10 MATCHES

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In the men's 3.0 doubles, the pair of Tommy Choi and Amami Sakano will take on Noel Biglete and Ernie Henson at 5pm at AMP; the duo of George Poquiz and Morris Villanueva will meet the father-and-son pair Darnel and Carl Dela Cruz at Fiesta resort & Spa at 6:30pm; and the team of Mario Buensuceso and Jorge Olanda will challenge Dy-

lan Ackerman and Egay Casing at AMP at 6:30pm.

Only one game each is set in the men's 4.0 singles and doubles tonight with the tandem of Hector Benitez and Dong Lacbayo squaring off against Rafael Jones and Clay McCullough-Stearns at 6:30pm at Fiesta and Gabrielle Colombo dueling Gary Ramsey at 5pm, also at Fiesta.

In the women's 3.0 singles, three games are scheduled for today with Alina Ishikawa and

Emily Jones playing at 5pm at Hyatt and Flor Jones and Betty Johnson colliding on the other court at Hyatt, also at 5pm. At 6:30pm at Hyatt, Amy Arenovski will meet Lucy Park. The fourth first round pairing in the women's singles will have Vickie Izuka fighting Tinian's Ellen Uy tomorrow at Hyatt.

Preliminary games in the women's 4.0 doubles and singles, men's open doubles, women's 3.0 doubles, men's 2.0 doubles, and the U10 singles and doubles

(short court) will be played this Friday and Saturday.

The 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic is supported by Gatorade, Quality Distributors, TakeCare, Mobil, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, AON, Shirley's Coffee Shop, IT&E, Continental Airlines, Docomo Pacific, Hertz, AMS Typhoon Shutters, Deloitte, First Hawaiian Bank, Pepsi, Miller Lite, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and the American Memorial Park.

will be announced soon.

The official Trench Tech weight categories are based on the Ultimate Fighting Championship and State Athletic Commissions in the U.S. They include pinweight (115-125 lbs), bantamweight (126-135 lbs), featherweight (136-145lbs), lightweight (146-155 lbs), welterweight 156-170 lbs), middleweight (171-185 lbs), light heavyweight (186-205 lbs) and heavyweight (206-265 lbs). Special restrictions and accommodations apply to fighters weighting over 165 lbs.

For more information about Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night, contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

NMASA monthly meeting tonight



The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will have its monthly meeting tonight at 7pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Members attending the meeting and intending to participate in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia are reminded to turn in the first deposit of \$360/per person.

NMASA estimates the cost of the trip to New Caledonia at \$1,800 per person and to help delegates meet the requirement, the association allowed each athlete/coach to pay \$360 per month for five months.

The Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10.

NMASA also reminds its members to submit nominations for athletes of the month in writing, presented no later than the start of the meeting.

Athletes selected for October will be eligible for the athletes of the year awards. (PR)

the blowout, while Armatech's Peter Crisostomo and Sonny Ebuen scored 10 points apiece.

The masters caging resumes tonight with Brotherhood facing Taga Security in the 45A 6:30pm game, followed by an 8pm 40A pairing between AON and Jhem's Restaurant at the Ada gym.

First Game

Kitty Kats Ferrera Builders 79 —Abedes 13, Tiples 13, Villegas 11, Sagun 9, Bugay 8, Lopez 6, Valencia 6, Cristobal 5, Garcia 4, Teng 2.

Exclusive 48 — Miguel 11, Alejandro 6, Bateria 6, Omur 6, Alegre 5, Mallari 4, Repolda 4, Acosta 2, Yarofalir 2, Zamora 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-10, 32-26, 54-40, 79-48.

Second Game

The House 112 — Diaz 23, Masga 21, Berline 17, Abedes 16, Pineda 15, Bicara 11, Tudela 7, Palacios 4.

Armotech 56 — Crisostomo 10, Ebuen 10, Tobias 9, Malasarte 6, Bello 5, Bernardo 4, Moreno 4, Trajano 4, Mateo 2, Montano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-8, 54-23, 86-34, 112-56.

BACK-TO-BACK

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joined the November roll-off: John Taisacan (445 pinfalls), Marcel McKenzie (438), and Ryan Batac (317).

Castro, McKenzie win

In the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament, Carol McKenzie and Alex Castro triumphed.

Castro took the November crown after collecting 847 pinfalls in Day 2 of the monthly roll-offs last Monday. His strong showing in the first two games allowed Castro to overtake Day 1 roll-off leader Simon Manacop. Castro had 233 and 245 pinfalls in the first two games and then logged 196 and 173 in the last two for an average of

211.75. He won by 56 pinfalls against runner-up Robert Talavera (791). Manacop, who had a Day 1 best score of 786 pinfalls dropped to third place.

King of the Lanes participants are given an option to bowl for two days, but only the higher score is counted.

Carol McKenzie bowled in Day 1 and her score was unbeaten in Day 2, giving her the November tiara. She tallied 687 pinfalls after showing his best form in Game 1 (216 pinfalls). Carol McKenzie carded 168, 150, and 153 in the last three games.

Elena Soll fell 26 pinfalls short of besting Carol McKenzie's Day 1 score, as the former recorded only 661 pinfalls in Day 2 to settle for second place. Gloria Omechelang and Ron Cal completed the Top 3 with their identical 651 pinfalls.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	4	.765	—
New York	10	9	.526	4
Toronto	6	11	.353	7
New Jersey	6	12	.333	7 1/2
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	8 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	13	4	.765	—
Atlanta	11	7	.611	2 1/2
Miami	10	8	.556	3 1/2
Charlotte	6	11	.353	7
Washington	5	11	.313	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	9	6	.600	—
Indiana	8	7	.533	1
Cleveland	7	10	.412	3
Milwaukee	6	11	.353	4
Detroit	6	12	.333	4 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	14	2	.875	—
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Dallas	13	4	.765	1 1/2
New Orleans	12	5	.706	2 1/2
Memphis	8	10	.444	7
Houston	5	12	.294	9 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	14	5	.737	—
Oklahoma City	12	6	.667	1 1/2
Denver	10	6	.625	2 1/2
Portland	8	9	.471	5
Minnesota	4	13	.235	9

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	13	5	.722	—
Golden State	8	9	.471	4 1/2
Phoenix	8	9	.471	4 1/2
Sacramento	4	11	.267	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	3	15	.167	10

Yesterday's Games

Boston 106, Cleveland 87
Orlando 90, Detroit 79
Philadelphia 88, Portland 79
New York 111, New Jersey 100
Memphis 98, L.A. Lakers 96
Indiana 107, Sacramento 98
San Antonio 118, Golden State 98

ALL SET

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■ Faisao vs. Trench Tech's "No Way" Jose Mofnas in a heavy-weight boxing match;

■ Haga's Shawn Ogo vs. Ryan "Trobz" Ngirbabul in the 185-lb division;

■ Haga's Frank Atalig vs. Team Chaos' Joe "Da Combo" Duenas in the 125-lb division;

■ Predator Combatteam's "Tobi" Jay Muna vs. Zalaka's Jason Ilo in a 125-lb K-1 kickboxing match;

■ Saipan's John Lisua vs. Guam's Mike Baza of Mong-Mong Toto Maite in the 185-lb division;

■ Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique vs. Zalaka's Alvin "The Bullet" Buckis in a 145-lb. boxing match;

■ Marianas Elite's Prescott Cabrera vs. Trench Tech's Rey Kim in a 170-lb submission grappling match;

■ Zeng Zung's Regino Mundo vs. Zalaka's Arron "Luvs You" Tomokane in a K-1 boxing match in the 150-lb division;

■ Tinian's Maitai "The Charger" Charley vs. Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios in a 150-lb K-1 bosing match;

■ Danny "Warrior" Santos vs. John "The Profit" Moses in a 145-lb division;

■ Pete "ASU" Castro vs. Zala-

ka's Milo "The Machine" Pomee in a 170-lb boxing matcg;

■ Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai vs. Rob "Pit-Bull" Palacios in the 195-lb division;

■ Rick San Nicolas vs. Jacob Haught in the 215-lb division;

■ "Kill" Bill Saurez vs. Martin "Ningbo Slice" Cepeda in the 185-lb division; and

■ Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Piligro" Rangamar vs. Trench Tech's Chris "No Love" Laayug in the 145-lb division.

In addition, Alvarez said independent fighter Juan Ogarto is listed on standby, Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas is looking for an opponent, and Team Chaos' Joy Inais Fre's opponent

Week 1 of 2nd Tan Holdings Tennis Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Alex Park serves to Luther Lizama during their U10 semis match.

Below, Julia Ishikawa returns to Tiffany Madlambayan during their U10 semis game.



Moris Villanueva makes a two-handed forehand return.



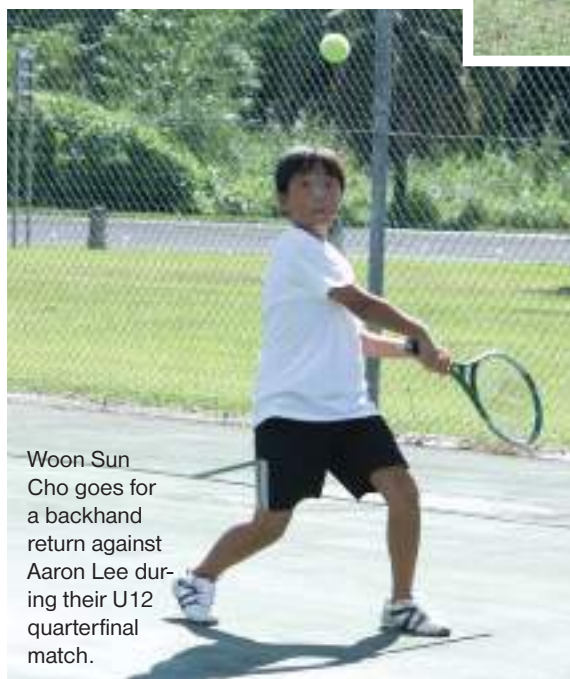
Luther Lizama signals to Alex Park before serving.



Colin Ramsey serves against Moris Villanueva during their U12 game in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts over the weekend.



Guam players pose with their trophies and plaques before leaving Saipan.



Woon Sun Cho goes for a backhand return against Aaron Lee during their U12 quarterfinal match.



Theecl Minor serves to sister Thea during their U18 singles game.



Left, Tiffany Madlambayan in action against Julia Ishikawa in the U12 semis.

Center left, Mikayla Lopez warms up against Melody Johnson during their U15 finals tiff.



28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

KFAS, Inter advance to semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Inter Godfather's and Korean Football Association on Saipan booked the first two semis tickets in the 2010 NMIFA Men's Football Fall Cup after downing separates foes at the start of the playoff round last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Inter Godfather's duelled Paire Football Club in the first playoff game last weekend and cruised to an easy 6-1 victory.

Masatoshi Otsuka had twin goals for Inter Godfather's, which got its four other goals from different players.

Peter Loken drew first blood for Inter Godfather's when he found the back of the net after only eight minutes into the game. Otsuka then hit his first goal in the 16th minute, while Matthew Holley broke into the scoreboard to give Inter Godfather's a 3-0 lead at the break.

In the second half, Otsuka opened up the scoring for Inter Godfather's with his goal in the 53rd minute and 10 minutes later, it was

See KFAS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Korean Football Association on Saipan striker goes for a header during their playoff game against Matansa Football Club in the NMIFA men's league last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

10 matches set for Week 2 of Tan Holdings Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The second week of competition in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic will start today with 10 matches scheduled at the various courts on Saipan.

Included in the opening day matches is the co-ed open singles duel between former junior player Vivian Lee and top-seed Kirk Schuler at 5pm at the American Memorial Park tennis court.

The co-ed singles division has an interesting field, as it features junior players going up against seasoned veterans.

Other pairings in the co-ed singles that will be played later this weekend are Rafael Jones against Peter Loyola, Dong Min Lee over Ji Kent Kwah, and Thea Minor versus CNMI coach Jeff Race, who is seeded second in the event.

The men's 3.0 singles will have one opening game tonight and three in the doubles division. The lone singles game will have Clayton Izuka battling Primo Po at 6:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court.

See 10 MATCHES on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carl Dela Cruz will team up with his father, Darnel, as they battle George Poquiz and Morris Villanueva in the men's 3.0 doubles game in the Tan Holdings Classic tonight at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

All set for Trench Tech Fan Night on Dec. 18

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Twenty-one matches are on the fight card for Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' yearend Fan Appreciation Night set on Dec. 18 at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said everyone is invited to attend the event, which is from 6pm to 11pm with doors opening promptly at 4:30pm.

"We want something to give back to the awesome mixed martial arts fans in the community for all of their support throughout the years for our Trench Warz, Rites Of Passage, and Art Of War Grappling events," said Alvarez.

Admission costs only \$5 with all drinks running on special for the event. In addition, live music from a local band will be providing entertainment in between

the action. Fans are suggested to dress lightly as the action in the gym is going to be hot.

Alvarez said an array of MMA, K-1 kickboxing, grappling, and boxing matches are expected to take place. A judo exhibition may also be featured and Frank "The Crank" Camacho will be the special guest referee during the night.

The tentative fight card for Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night is as follows:

■ Trench Tech's Roman "Boom" Alvarez vs. Tinian's Johmar Untalan in the 145-lb division;

■ Trench Tech's Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez vs. Zalaka's Lyle DL Guererro in the 140-lb division;

■ Zalaka's Patris "Tricky" Nicky vs. Trench Tech's Taveta Lueta in a 140-lb submission grappling match;

■ Zalaka's Derrick Chen will challenge Trench Tech's Alverick "PreTTY Boy" Alvarez in the 145-lb division;

■ Zalaka's Frank "The Tank" See ALL SET on Page 26

Back-to-back victories for Aldan



Aldan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Youth kegler M.J. Aldan started another streak after winning the November Fiji Water Prince/



Castro



Princess of the Lanes Tournament last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The victory was second in



McKenzie

a row for Aldan, as he also topped the October roll-off. In the last six monthly tournaments, Aldan won five of them, recording victories from June to August.

Aldan prevailed in last week-end's roll-off after carding a four-game total of 744 pinfalls. He tallied his best score in Game 4 with 240 pinfalls. In Games 1 and 2, Aldan posted 177 and 171, respectively, before slowing down in Game 3 with his 156 pinfalls.

Marion McKenzie, which ended Aldan's streak in September, had another runner-up finish, as the former only totaled 687 pinfalls in four games. Aldan started strong with 210 pinfalls in Game 1, but failed to keep his momentum in the last three games (174, 155, and 148).

Rounding out the Top 3 was female kegler Leanne Yarobwemal, who recorded 535 pinfalls (149, 119, 126, and 141). Three other youth bowlers

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